

ASSUMING YOU STILL WISH TO ACCOMPANY ME AFTER I MAKE CERTAIN FACTS OF THE MATTER CLEAR, WE CAN GO TOMORROW MORNING.

BUT THE HUNTERS COULD BE HERE AS EARLY AS TOMORROW EVENING.

WHICH IS WHY WE WOULD GO EARLY IN THE MORNING. I AM NOT TAKING YOU INTO THOSE WOODS AT NIGHT. I WILL MAKE CERTAIN YOUR ABSENCE FROM CLASSES WON'T GET YOU IN TROUBLE.

OKAY...

FIRST AND FOREMOST, THIS IS A DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL. I WILL BE BRINGING A GUN, AND IF WE CANNOT SAFELY CALM IT, I WILL SHOOT IT MYSELF. DO YOU ACCEPT THIS?

...
YES.

GOOD. I AM HOPEFUL THAT BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH IT WILL BE ENOUGH, BUT WE DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF THE ENCHANTMENT, AND IT'S BOUND TO BE AGITATED.

FROM BEING SPOOKED YESTERDAY AND ALL BIG AND STUFF?

FROM HUNGER. IT IS LARGER THAN NORMAL, AND MOST ANIMALS CANNOT RESIST MAGIC AS WE CAN.

THEY WILL FEEL A NATURAL NEED TO DISPEL ENCHANTMENTS, BUT ANY EXCESS ENERGY WILL PROLONG THEM. THEY HAVE TO LIMIT THEIR OWN ENERGY TO GET RID OF THEM.

IN SHORT, IT IS MOST LIKELY BARELY EATING ENOUGH TO SURVIVE, OR NOTHING AT ALL.

SHOULD...
SHOULD WE BRING
SANDWICHES?



WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITY OF RUNNING INTO
WHOEVER ENCHANTED THE BOAR.
WHILE IT WAS MOST LIKELY DONE
WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, WE CAN'T
KNOW FOR CERTAIN.



WAIT-
WAIT-WAIT.

MAKING THE BOAR *GIANT* WAS
DONE WITH *GOOD INTENTIONS*.

MOST LIKELY, YES.



BWUH?

RECALL RHODA'S
ACCOUNT OF THE
BOAR ATTACK.



IT DIDN'T LOOK... *THAT* BIG
FROM A DISTANCE, BUT ONCE
UP CLOSE... I'M NOT SURE
WHY IT STOPPED CHARGING...



IT SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED. THE
END RESULT OF A CHARGING BOAR
CATCHING UP WITH HER SHOULD
HAVE BEEN IT SLASHING UPWARD AT
HER WITH DEADLY, RAZOR-SHARP
TUSKS, RESULTING IN SERIOUS, AND
POTENTIALLY FATAL, INJURY.



"INSTEAD, THE BOAR STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS. THE
NEXT THING RHODA KNEW, SHE WAS DEALING WITH A
GIANT BOAR, *BUT* SHE HAD TIME TO GET TO SAFETY."



"THAT OTHER EXCITABLE GIRL MIGHT
HAVE HELPED SCARE THE BOAR OFF,
BUT IT WAS THE BOAR ITSELF GROWING
THAT STOPPED IT AND SAVED RHODA."



SO YES, I BELIEVE WHOEVER DID THIS WAS LIKELY WELL INTENTIONED. OR INEPTLY EVIL. STILL, WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL...



MR. RAVEN, I GET THAT. I WILL DO AS YOU TELL ME AND TRUST IN YOUR JUDGMENT. IF WE'RE NOT GOING TONIGHT, HOWEVER, I REALLY SHOULD GET BACK HOME.



...VERY WELL, THEN. BE HERE AS EARLY AS YOU CAN TOMORROW MORNING.

YES! YOU WON'T REGRET THIS! WE ARE SO GOING TO SAVE EVERYONE!



BEFORE YOU GO, I FEEL I SHOULD ASK... HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHAT WE'RE UP TO?



GIRLFRIEND? YOU MEAN ELLEN?

YES. I'M SORRY, IS THAT NOT ACCURATE? I DON'T NORMALLY PUT MUCH STOCK IN RUMORS, BUT WITH YOU TWO, WELL...



OH, NO. I'M TEDD'S GIRLFRIEND!



TEDD? YOU'RE... TEDD'S GIRLFRIEND?

YEAH! HAVE YOU MET HIM?



...I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME.

WHAT?!





NO NO NO--YOU SAID I COULD COME WITH YOU!

I CHANGED MY MIND.



THERE ARE LIVES AT STAKE!

ONLY THE BOAR'S LIFE IS DEPENDANT ON YOU. I CAN KILL IT MYSELF AND PROTECT THE REST.



BUT WE CAN SAVE IT!

I WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING YOU AT RISK!



I'M PUTTING ME AT RISK! I'M NOT GOING TO JUST SIT BACK AND LET YOU DEFAULT TO KILLING IT BECAUSE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME! WE CAN SAVE THIS BOAR!



...YOU WILL DO EVERYTHING I SAY. YOU WILL NOT RISK YOUR LIFE OR SAFETY.

IF I TELL YOU TO FLEE, YOU WILL FLEE. IF I TELL YOU TO LEAVE ME TO DIE, YOU WILL LEAVE ME TO DIE.

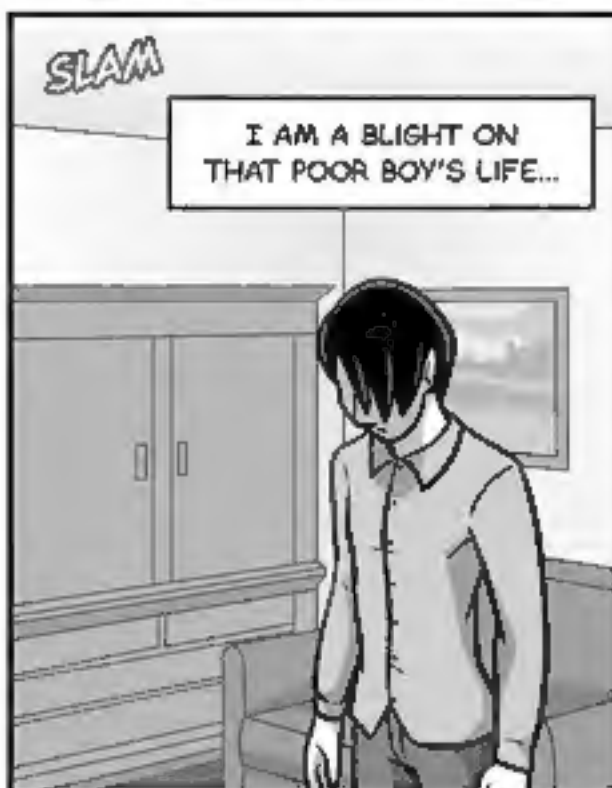
ABOVE ALL ELSE, YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO RETURN HOME UNHARMED. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?



LEAVE YOU TO DIE? BUT--

DO. YOU. UNDERSTAND. ME?

YES.





One very wordy recap later...

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME WHERE YOU WERE GOING.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY.

BUT YOU LIED TO ME.

WHO GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?

IT'S OKAY TO LIE TO PEOPLE IF YOU THINK IT'S FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!

EVERYONE I HAVE EVER KNOWN EVER.

FAIR ENOUGH. SOMETIMES WE NEED TO KEEP SECRETS, BUT WE SHOULDN'T HIDE STUFF LIKE THIS FROM *EACH OTHER*. I DON'T WANT TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT SECRET STUFF YOU MIGHT BE UP TO EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE.

I'M SORRY. I GUESS I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT THE LONG TERM...

I KNOW YOU MEANT WELL, BUT MUTUAL HONESTY IS WHAT'S GOING TO MAKE US *BOTH* WORRY LESS IN THE LONG RUN.

WORRYING? YOU AND RAVEN CAN EASILY HANDLE SOME FAT OLD PIG. WHAT'S THERE TO WORRY ABOUT?

SO YOU'RE GLAD I TOLD YOU? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND THE WHOLE DAY WORRYING?

Tuesday, the next morning...



GOOD MOR--

GET IN.

RIGHT.



DID YOU TALK
TO TEDD?

YEAH, AND YOU WERE RIGHT
TO MAKE ME. I WASN'T THINK-
ING ABOUT HOW IT WOULD
MAKE HIM WORRY MORE IN--



YES, YES, I'M EXPERIENCED IN
VIOLATIONS OF TRUST. CAN
YOU SIT IN A CAR IN YOUR
THREE-TAILED FORM?

I DOUBT COMFORTABLY, BUT I
COULD MANAGE. I THOUGHT
I'D MORPH IN THE FOREST.



YOU WILL CHANGE *HERE*. THERE
COULD BE OTHERS IN THE WOODS,
SO I WILL BE CASTING ILLUSION
SPELLS ON EACH OF US HERE.
SHIFTING *AFTER* THEY'RE CAST
COULD DISRUPT THEM.



I THOUGHT
YOUR AGE
CHANGE THING
WAS A TRANS-
FORMATION.

NORMALLY, YES, BUT *NORMALLY*, I
ONLY NEED A FRACTION OF MY
POWER. TODAY IS *NOT* NORMAL.
NOW CHANGE. WE'RE IN A HURRY.

One very exciting transformation sequence later...



OKAY. MORPHED.

WHY THE
ORANGE VESTS?

PUT ON THIS ORANGE VEST.
IT'S ACTUALLY A TRANS-
FORMED T-SHIRT. SO I CAN
ADJUST IT IF IT DOESN'T FIT.



BECAUSE IT'S AN INDICATOR TO OTHER
HUNTERS TO *NOT SHOOT YOU* SHOULD
THE ILLUSIONS FAIL, AND I WAS UNABLE
TO CONJURE A GIANT BULLETPROOF
HAMSTER BALL TO PUT YOU IN.

NOW, I NEED TO CAST THE ILLUSION SPELL ON YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED AND ACCEPTING OF IT.

IF YOU ARE, IT WILL LAST FOR AS LONG AS WE WANT. IF NOT, A RESISTANCE LIKE YOURS WILL QUICKLY DISPEL IT.



INTERESTING. HOW DOES IT WORK? IS IT LIGHT-BASED? PSYCHIC? OR--

IT'S MAGIC. NOW GET READY.



READY.



DONE



I STILL LOOK FUZZY...

WE CAN SEE THROUGH THESE ILLUSIONS. HERE, YOU CAN SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS SEEING THROUGH MIRRORS.



PLEASE DON'T TAKE OFFENSE TO THE CHANGES IN YOUR APPEARANCE. IF ANYONE ASKS, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO CREDIBLY CLAIM THAT YOU'RE MY NIECE.



YOU... DON'T HAVE ANY KIDS, DO YOU?

HALF-IMMORTALS CANNOT HAVE CHILDREN.

ARE YOU SURE?

YES. WHY?

NO REASON.





A bit of contorting and driving later

SO... YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT TEDD. DON'T YOU?



YOUR CONCERN FOR MY SAFETY GOT WAY WORSE AFTER I SAID I WAS HIS GIRLFRIEND. TEDD DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOU BUT YOU KNOW HIM, DON'T YOU?



...I TAUGHT BOTH OF HIS PARENTS WHEN THEY WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

WE REMAINED FRIENDS AFTER THEY GRADUATED AND I WAS ENCOURAGING OF THEIR CAREERS TO A FAULT.



I FAILED TO REALIZE THAT I WAS A TERRIBLE INFLUENCE ON HIS MOTHER. SHE EVENTUALLY PLACED GREATER IMPORTANCE ON HER CAREER THAN HER FAMILY.



HAD I BEEN A WISER AND STRONGER PERSON, HIS PARENTS MIGHT HAVE WORKED THINGS OUT.

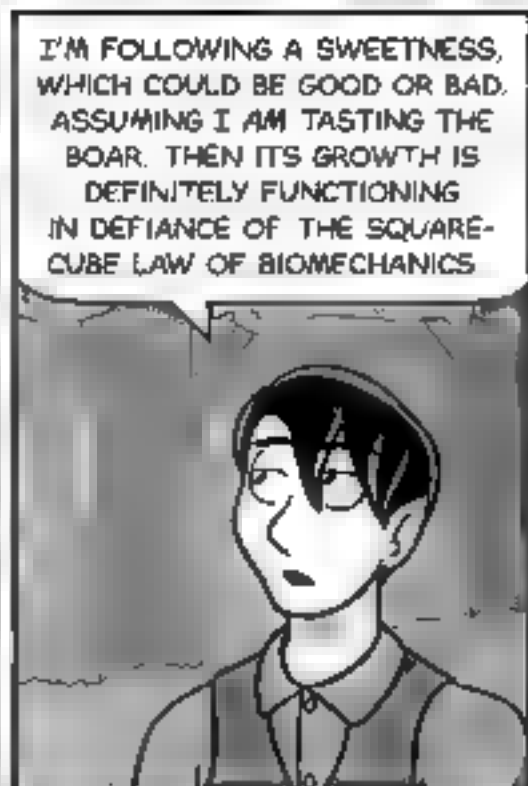
I REFUSE TO CAUSE HIM ANY MORE HARM.



YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR HER CHOICES...

TRUST ME ON THIS GRACE I AM DEFINITELY WHY THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF RECONCILIATION.





THE TASTE IS
DEFINITELY STRONGER
THIS WAY



NOT THAT I'M WEIRDED OUT,
BUT COULDN'T YOU JUST SAY
YOU "SENSE" THE BOAR?

THERE IS VIRTUE IN BEING
SPECIFIC BESIDES WHICH.
DIFFERENT TYPES OF SENSING
WOULD IMPLY DIFFERENT



THINGS.



...ROOTING...

WHAT WAS THAT YOU
WERE SAYING EARLIER ABOUT
THE BOAR NOT EATING?



IF NOT FOR THE SIZE OF THE INDENTATIONS IN THE SOIL AND THE UPROOTED TREES, I WOULD ASSUME THIS WAS THE WORK OF SEVERAL RAVENOUS ANIMALS.

BUT IT'S LOOKING LIKE JUST THE ONE BIG ONE?



THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN TAUGHT SAYS THAT ANIMALS INSTINCTIVELY EAT LESS TO RID THEMSELVES OF ENCHANTMENTS.

"TAUGHT"?
YOU'VE NEVER
TESTED IT?



I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD BE AN ACT OF CRUELTY OF COURSE I'VE NEVER TESTED IT!

SO WE DON'T
REALLY KNOW
IF IT'S TRUE
OR NOT



FORGIVE ME FOR
HAVING A MODICUM
OF MORALITY

I'M NOT JUDGING
YOU! I'M JUST
SAYING WE DON'T
KNOW WHETHER
IT'S FACT OR



CLAK



CLAK

CLAK

GRACE IT'S NOT MAKING NOISES WITH ITS TUSKS BECAUSE IT'S HAPPY TO SEE US. IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK TO IT NOW IS THE TIME

R-RIGHT

HELLO. MR. BOAR!

WE COME IN PEACE AND ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

SNORT

I'M SORRY MR. BOAR. BUT YOU DO. YOU'RE IN DANGER THERE ARE HUNTERS COMING FOR YOU AND--

THEY'RE NOT LIKELY TO RUN.

GRUNT

CLAK

HE SAYS THIS IS HIS FOREST
AND IF HE CAN'T SCARE OFF THE
HUNTERS. HE'LL KILL THEM.

AS EXPECTED ASK
ABOUT OTHER BOARS



ARE YOU THE
ONLY BOAR IN
THIS FOREST?

GRUNT

AREN'T YOU
LONELY?



MAYBE NOT *MALE* BOARS.
WHAT ABOUT *LADY* BOARS?
DON'T YOU WANT A MATE?

...**GRUNT**



YOU WON'T BE ABLE
TO HAVE A FAMILY IF
YOU STAY HERE



ANIMALS INSTINCTIVELY EAT
LESS TO RID THEMSELVES OF
ENCHANTMENTS. BUT IF AN
ANIMAL WERE TO FIND AN
ENCHANTMENT *DESIRABLE*..



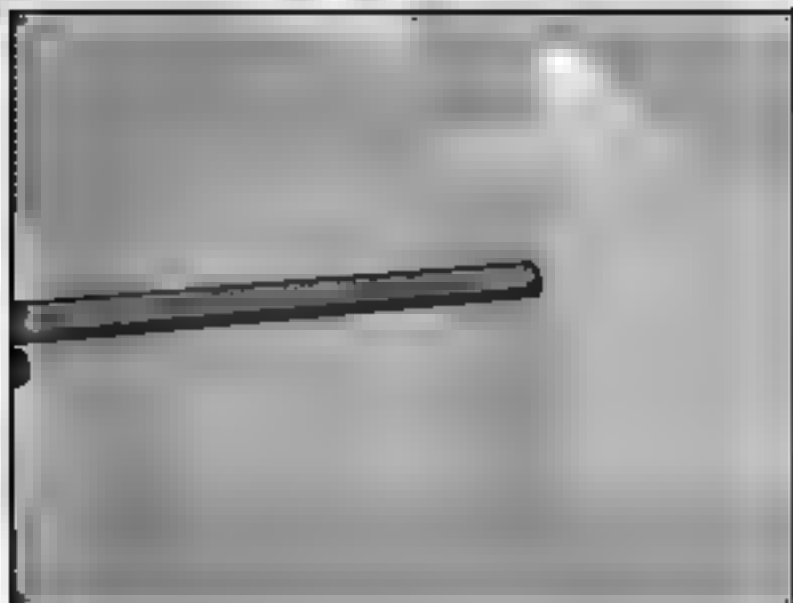
IT WANTS
TO BE BIG

WE CAN HELP MAKE
YOU NORMAL-SIZED
AGAIN. AND-





BLAM





I DIDN'T EVEN
TRY TO FLY



I THOUGHT I'D BE SAFE
BECAUSE I COULD JUST
FLY OUT OF DANGER THEN
WHEN THE TIME CAME IT
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN
FAST ENOUGH.



MAYBE IF I'D
BEEN FLOATING..

IT WOULDN'T HAVE
MADE ANY DIFFERENCE.
THAT BOAR WAS DOOMED
FROM THE START I WAS
TOO STUBBORN AND
STUPID TO ACCEPT IT



I'M SORRY I BROUGHT
YOU OUT HERE. THERE
WAS NO POINT IN
TRYING TO SAVE IT



MR. RAVEN. YOU'RE VERY SMART
AND WE'RE BOTH UPSET RIGHT
NOW BUT THAT'S STUPID



SOMEONE HAS TO TRY IF EVERYONE ACCEPTS THE WORST OUTCOME AS BEING INEVITABLE THEN THAT'S WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE



NOBODY ELSE WAS GOING TO TRY AND SAVE THIS BOAR. THEY DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT A POSSIBILITY

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS THEY DIDN'T



I DON'T CARE! EVEN IF IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO HOPE, AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAS TO BE WILLING TO TRY FOR THE BETTER OUTCOME

WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET BETTER OUTCOMES UNLESS SOMEONE TRIES.



AND IF SOMEONE HAS TO BE AN IDIOT TO TRY THEN I'LL GLADLY BE THAT IDIOT!



I STILL BELIEVE YOU ARE WRONG WHEN IT COMES TO TRYING TO SAVE THE BOAR.

BUT I LIKE YOUR REASONS FOR BEING WRONG.



NONETHELESS, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO SAVE THE BOAR.

BUT--

LET ME SPEAK

I HAVE OLD FRIENDS WELL, ACQUAINTANCES, WHO TOLD ME THEY'D BE ABLE TO RELOCATE THE BOAR TO SOME WHERE THAT WOULD BE OKAY FOR EVERYONE

I WANTED TO TRUST THEM, BUT NOW I'M CERTAIN THEY'D HAVE JUST RETURNED IT TO THE WILD WHAT ELSE COULD THEY HAVE DONE WITH IT?

THE SAD FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT BOARS ARE AN *ECOLOGICAL DISASTER*, AND TO SAVE THEM IS TO HARM OTHERS. THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THAT BOAR. WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO WAS WRONG

BUT YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT SOMEONE HAS TO BE WILLING TO TRY FOR THE BETTER OUTCOME

UNFORTUNATELY WE ALSO HAVE TO BE WILLING TO ACCEPT WHEN WE DON'T HAVE A BETTER SOLUTION. THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE STOP TRYING TO FIND ONE BUT... AM I MAKING SENSE?

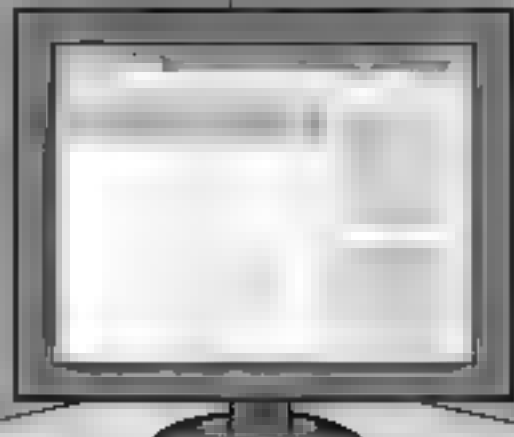
MORE THAN I WANT TO ADMIT

WE'VE STAYED HERE LONGER THAN WE SHOULD. WE'LL HEAD BACK TO MY HOME FOR YOUR THINGS AND TO UNDO YOUR ILLUSION, BUT FIRST I BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING I OWE YOU



That evening

" AN ANONYMOUS TIP WITH GPS COORDINATES LED PARK RANGER SIMPSON TO THE BODY OF A BOAR. THE BOAR WAS OF A NATURALLY OCCURRING SIZE, BUT HAD A STYLISH SCAR IN THE RIGHT PLACE"



"PARK RANGER SIMPSON, HOWEVER, CLAIMS THAT THE AMOUNT OF DEVASTATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THE BOAR SUGGESTS THAT THERE ACTUALLY WAS A MUCH LARGER ANIMAL."



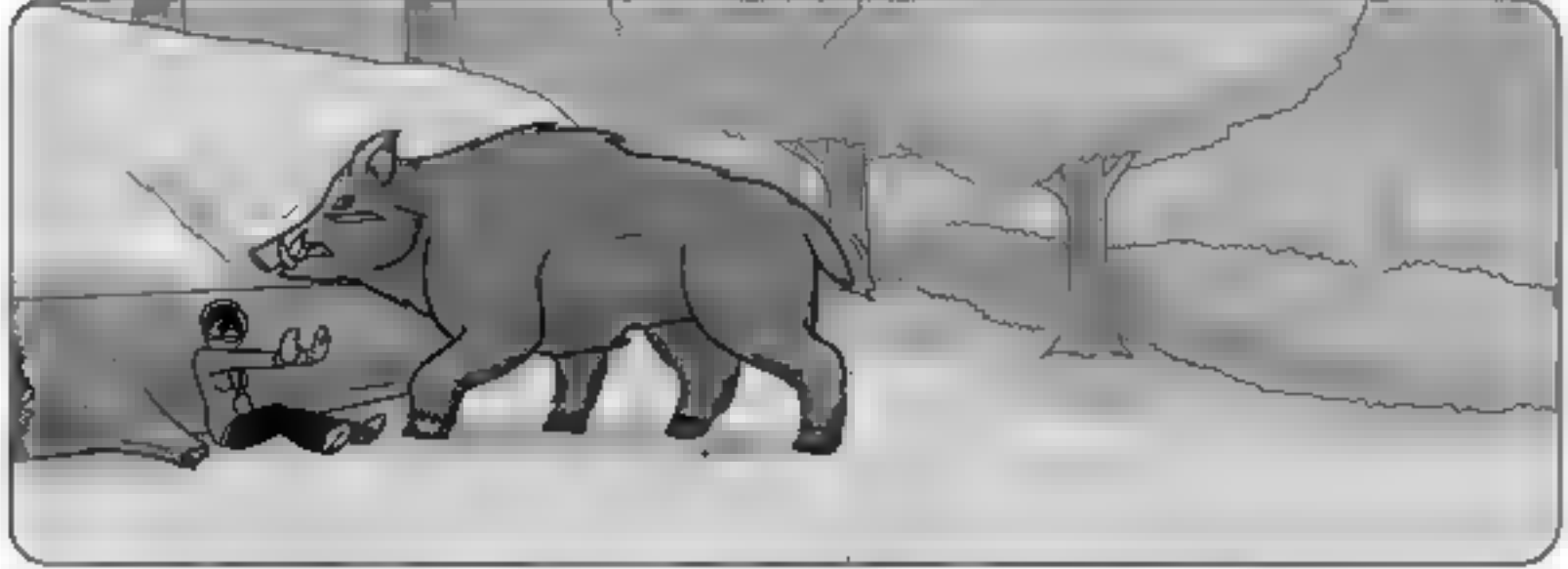
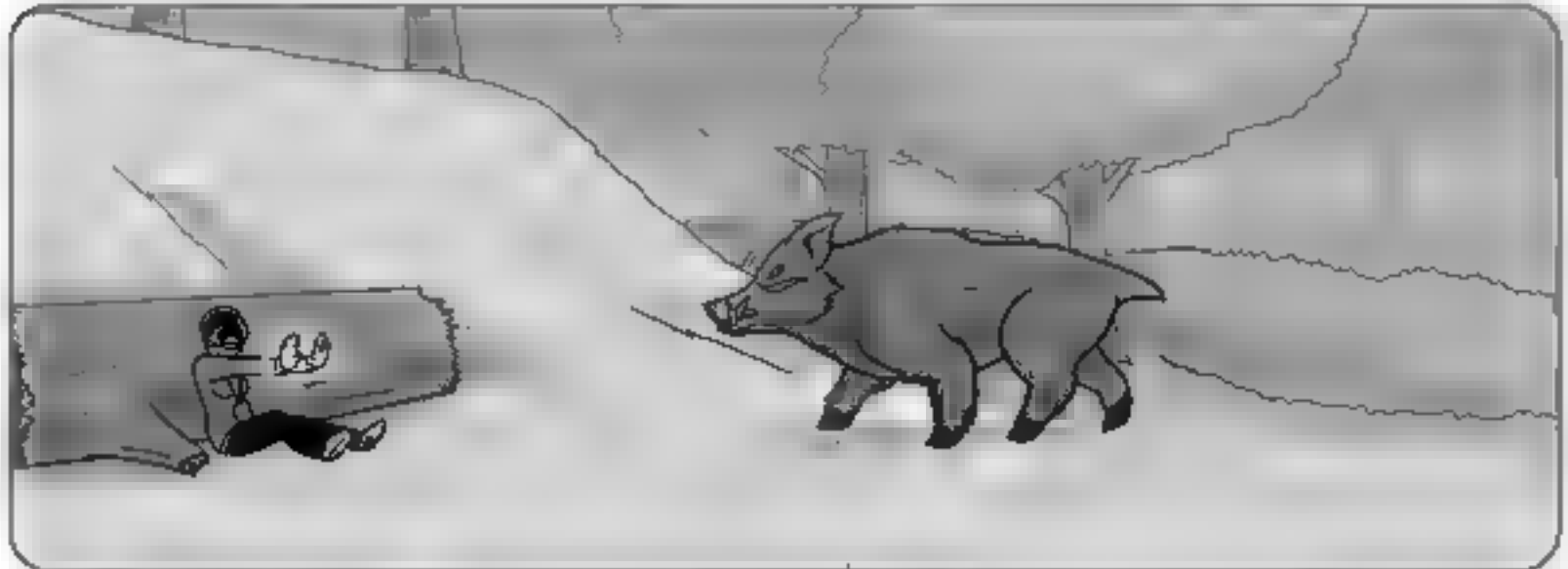
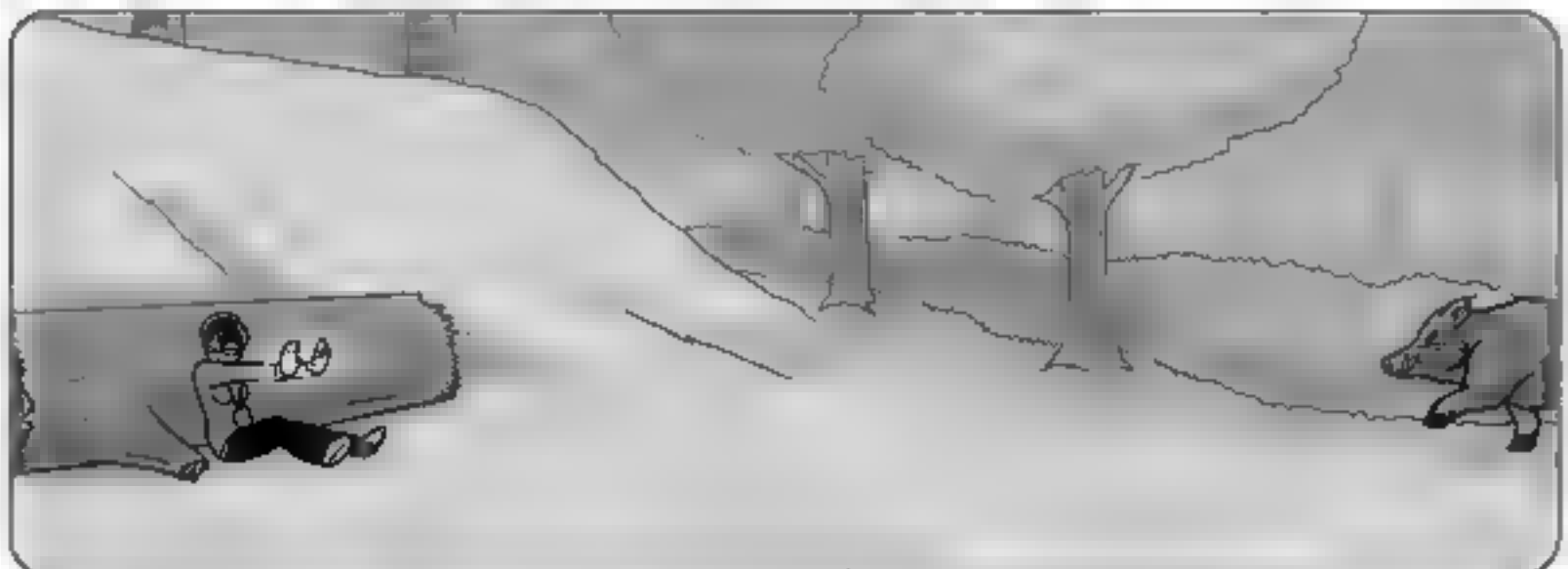
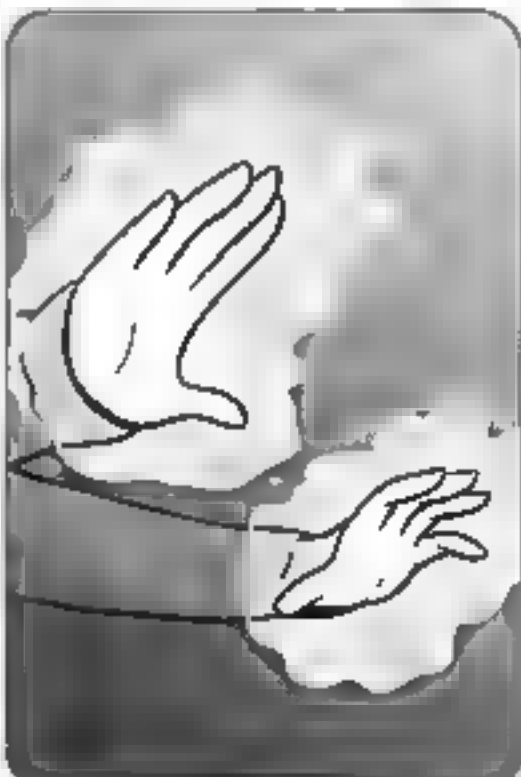
"MOST PERPLEXINGLY OF ALL, THE GROUND AROUND THE BOAR'S BODY SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT SOMETHING LARGER FELL THERE FIRST"

RHODA, IT'S AFTER NINE! HAVE YOU GOTTEN READY FOR BED YET?

I WILL SOON, MOM!



POOR BOAR... I WONDER WHAT MADE IT BIG IN THE FIRST PLACE



I GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW...



< NANASE! TIME TO WAKE UP! >>

MMF

*Translated from Japanese Probably

I HAVE GOT TO
GET A HAIR CUT

NO!

GAH!

YOU NEED TO
LET IT GROW SUPER
AMAZINGLY LONG!

AKIKO I
KNOW YOU LIKE
RAPUNZEL, BUT ..

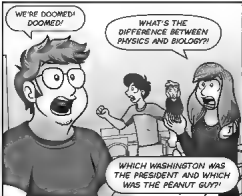
RAPUNZEL,
RAPUNZEL, DON'T
CUT YOUR HAIR!

CHOP OFF
MY HAIR.
YOU SAY?

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I SAID!

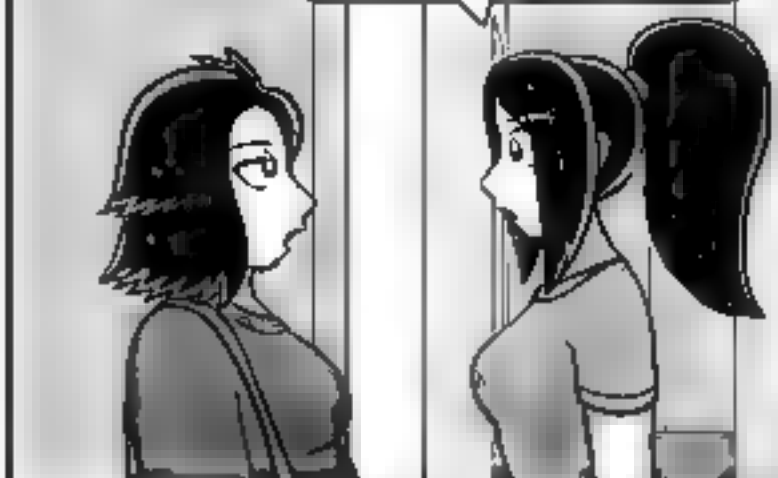
I THINK I'VE GOT
SOME SCISSORS AROUND
HERE SOMEWHERE...

NO!



< ELLEN CAN BE HERE BUT YOUR JOB IS TO TAKE CARE OF AKIKO YOU ARE NOT TO DO ANYTHING INAPPROPRIATE IN FRONT OF HER OR LEAVE HER UNATTENDED. >

< NEITHER OF US EVEN CONSIDERED DOING OTHERWISE. >



< GOOD. WE'LL BE BACK IN A FEW HOURS. >

< HAVE A GOOD EVENING! >



THEY'RE LEAVING

THAT'S ACTUALLY THE ONLY PART OF THE CONVERSATION I DID UNDERSTAND.

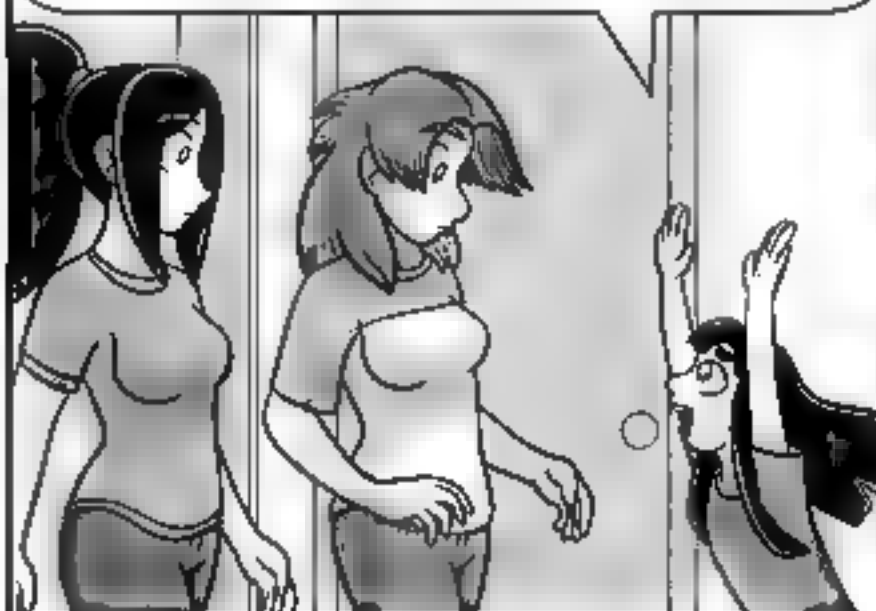


SORRY ABOUT THAT WE TEND TO DEFAULT TO JAPANESE WHEN TALKING TO EACH OTHER.

WHY IS THAT ANYWAY?



< IT'S WHAT MOM AND DAD WERE USED TO GROWING UP AND MOM AND DAD SAY "WE SHOULD RESPECT OUR HERITAGE" AND "YOU USE IT OR YOU LOSE IT", SO WE SPEAK JAPANESE AROUND THE HOUSE AND STUFF! >



SUBTITLES. ?







AM I GOING TO HAVE
TO LOOK THIS UP ON
THE INTERNET?

KRAK-A-THOOM

WHAT? NO! HECK
NO. JUST LET ME
FIGURE THIS OUT

WHAT'S THERE TO
FIGURE OUT? JUST
EXPLAIN WHAT "BE
ATTRACTED TO"
MEANS!

LOOK IT'S. SOMETHING YOU
FEEL WHEN YOU'RE OLDER. A
ROMANTIC FEELING YOU GET
ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM JUST
LIKING SOMEONE.

YOU MEAN
LIKE LOVE?

EXACTLY!

NOT ALL
THE TIME.

ELLEN!

WHAT? YOU WANT HER
THINKING ATTRACTION
AND LOVE IS THE SAME
THING? THAT'S WHERE
VAMPIRE ROMANCE
NOVELS COME FROM.

DO YOU MEAN LIKE HOW THE
GOOD BOY AND GIRL WILL LIKE
EACH OTHER AND WANT TO BE
TOGETHER. BUT THE BAD GUY
TRIES TO MAKE THE GIRL BE
WITH HIM? LIKE THEY'RE BOTH
ATTRACTED TO HER BUT ONLY
THE GOOD GUY LOVES HER?

UH.. THAT'D
BE ONE EXAMPLE
YEAH.

KEEP THAT IN MIND
IF ANY VAMPIRES
EVER ASK YOU OUT

OKAY SO WHY CAN'T I DECIDE TO BE ATTRACTED TO GIRLS WHEN I'M OLDER?

IT'S A FEELING YOU GET IT ISN'T A CONSCIOUS DECISION.

WELL NO SHE JUST IS!

I'M MORE HOT THAN PRETTY

SO YOU DIDN'T DECIDE TO THINK SHE'S PRETTY?

ELLEN!

WHAT?

EIGHT!

I GUESS THAT'S CONSISTENT WITH MY DATA.

YOU HAVE DATA?

ABOUT MY HOTNESS?

IT ACTUALLY EXPLAINS A LOT! LIKE WHY TWO FRIENDS WOULD FIGHT OVER THE SAME PERSON. OR WHY SOMEONE WOULD LIKE SOMEONE THEY DON'T LIKE AND WHY A DRAGON WOULD WANT TO DATE A UNICORN!

YOUR DATA IS FROM CARTOONS.

OF COURSE IT IS. I'M EIGHT

SO I CAN'T JUST DECIDE TO
THINK GIRLS ARE PRETTY AND
STUFF IT'S A FEELING I'LL
GET SOMEDAY AND I MIGHT
FEEL THAT BOYS ARE PRETTY

PRETTY MUCH,
YEAH. IT CAN BE
CONFUSING. BUT..

SO MAYBE I WILL
BE ATTRACTED TO
GIRLS SOMEDAY!

WHAT?

YEAH! AND THEN ME AND MY
GIRLFRIEND WON'T HAVE TO BOTHER
WITH *STINKY BOYS*, AND WE'LL GET
TO HANG OUT AND BRUSH EACH
OTHER'S HAIR AND SHARE OUTFITS.

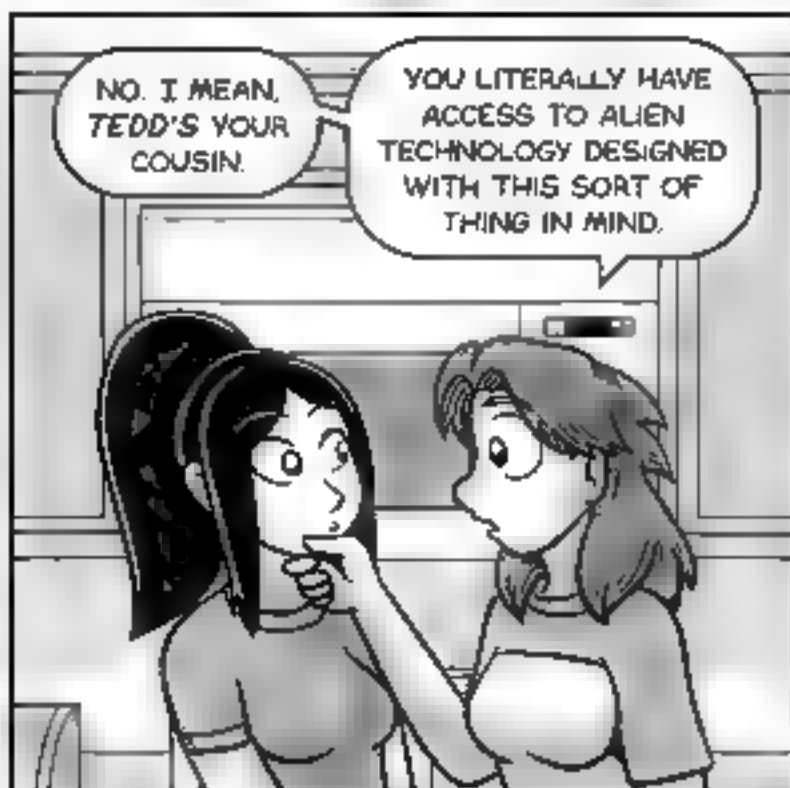
YOU'RE MOST LIKELY
GOING TO BE ATTRACTED
TO BOYS, AKIKO.

YEAH. BUT MAYBE I
WON'T BE! THAT'D
BE GREAT RIGHT?

I SHOULD MAKE DINNER.
AKIKO. YOU CAN WATCH
ANY OF YOUR--

RAPUNZEL
RAPUNZEL PUT IN
YOUR MOVIE!





STOP S'IL
VOUS PLAÎT!

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
I AM!

YOU KNOW
WHAT THE BEST
PART OF THIS
MOVIE IS?

THE PART
WHERE HE
PUNCHES
PEOPLE?

THE SETTING. I'VE
ALWAYS WANTED TO
VISIT PARIS

REALLY?
WHY?

IT'S PARIS.

YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T
SPEAK FRENCH. PLUS IT'D BE
EXPENSIVE AS HELL AND THE
PLANE RIDE WOULD TAKE DAYS.

MORE LIKE NINE HOURS, AND
I DON'T CARE I WANT TO
SEE THE WORLD. AND PARIS IS
AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF
PLACES I WANT TO GO

I HATE TRAVELING. MY IDEA
OF A GREAT VACATION IS
STAYING HOME SEEING THE
PEOPLE YOU KNOW AND LOVE
AND TAKING IT EASY

SOUNDS
EXCITING

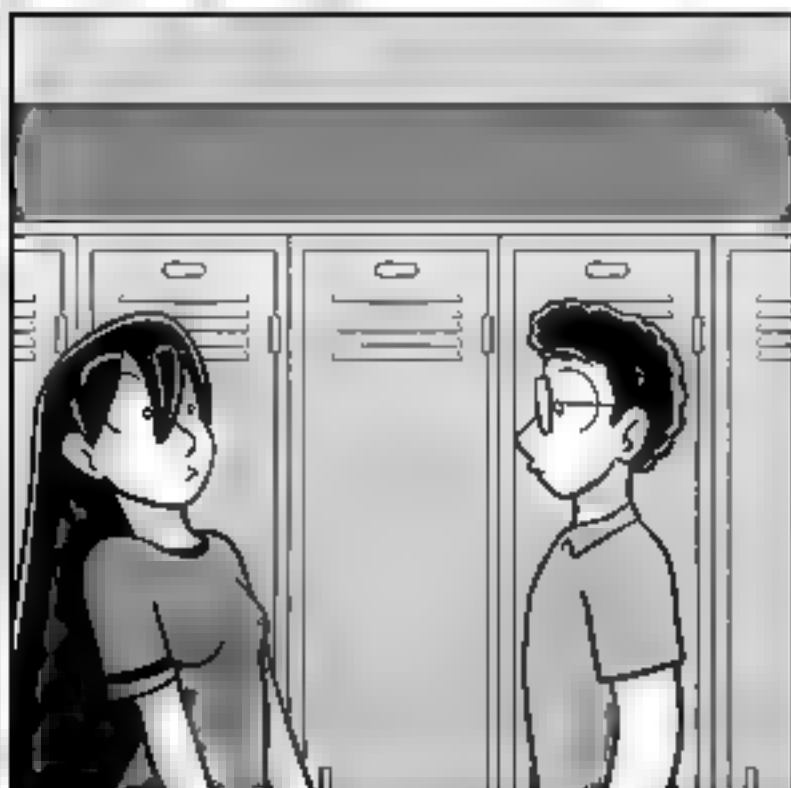
IT'S AWESOME
DUDE! DID YOU SEE
THAT PUNCH?!

Tuesday, May 28, right before.



lunch at Moperville North







Meanwhile, at Moperville South



ARE YOU GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

IF I HAVE TO BUT I HOPE NOT I'M NOT LAZY BUT THIS IS TECHNICALLY MY FIRST SUMMER I WANT MY FREEDOM.

MAKES SENSE TO ME MY SUMMER JOB'S GOING TO BE BABYSITTING, SO MY SCHEDULE WILL BE PRETTY OPEN, IF A BIT RANDOM.

DO YOU SET THAT UP THROUGH AN AGENCY OR SOMETHING?

OH NO I BABY SIT FOR A LOT OF OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY MY MOM SETS IT ALL UP

SHE'S RESPONSIBLE GOOD WITH CHILDREN AND VERY SMART NOT AS SMART AS SHE THINKS SHE IS BUT WHAT TEENAGER IS?

TELL ME ABOUT IT

SHE'S ALSO A TRAINED MARTIAL ARTIST SO SHE CAN DEFEND YOUR CHILDREN FROM DANGER.

HEH HEH.

NO. SERIOUSLY SHE WILL DEFEND YOUR CHILDREN WITH THE FEROCITY OF A MAMA BEAR PROTECTING HER CUBS.



HOW DO I
APOLOGIZE TO MATT
WITHOUT GETTING
HIS HOPES UP

WHAT?



I COMPLETELY AND
UTTERLY FAILED TO
LET HIM DOWN EASY
BUT I STILL DON'T
WANT TO DATE HIM.

HOW DO I
APOLOGIZE
WITHOUT
MAKING IT
WORSE?



I... DON'T
KNOW

JUST HOW
BADLY DID YOU
REJECT HIM?

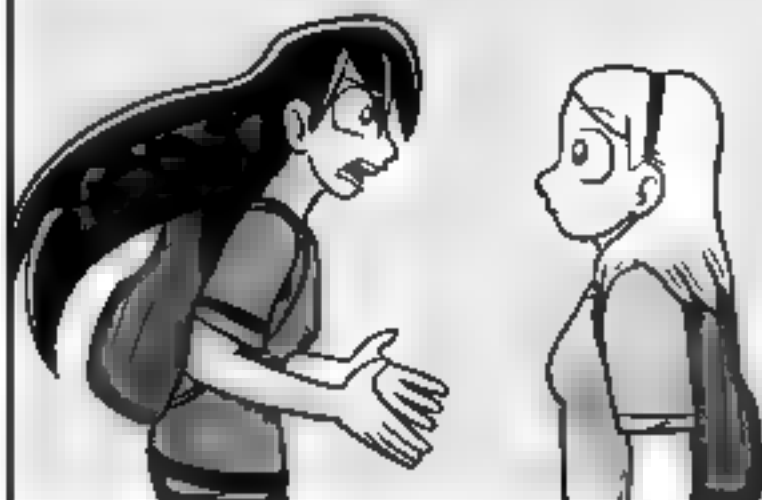


I MIGHT HAVE RAPIDLY SAID
A JUMBLED MESS OF EXCUSES
BEFORE RUNNING AWAY

SUSAN!



I FREAKED
OUT OKAY?! HE
SCARED ME!



WELL, THAT CERTAINLY
WASN'T MY INTENTION.



MATT/ HI.
LISTEN, I'M SORRY
I FREAKED OUT
EARLIER. IT'S NOT
YOU, IT'S ME

I MEAN IT *MIGHT*
BE YOU I DON'T
KNOW YOU VERY
WELL THAT'S PART
OF THE ISSUE.

SUSAN!

BUT WHATEVER! *IT'S ME* I DON'T DATE. I'VE
NEVER DATED I DON'T LIKE BEING TOUCHED I
HAVE TRUST ISSUES. MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED,
AND I ONCE HAD TO KILL A VAMPIRE AFTER IT
CHARMED ME WITH SEDUCTION MAGIC!

YOU KILLED A VAMPIRE?

OH, YEAH, I
KNOW HOW
THOSE GET

IN A.. *VERY* WELL
ACTED LIVE ACTION
ROLEPLAYING GAME?

IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
DATE ME. IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION
TO MAKE YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE
AND I ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY

I'LL SEE
YOU AROUND
OKAY?

UH,
SURE.
OKAY

SUSAN?

YEAH?

YOU'VE REALLY NEVER
DATED ANYONE?

WELL, YES. I'VE
NEVER BEEN ON
A DATE



LISTEN. I RESPECT THAT YOU
DON'T WANT TO DATE ME, BUT
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A SENIOR
NEXT YEAR. RIGHT?

YES, I AM.
WHAT'S YOUR
POINT?

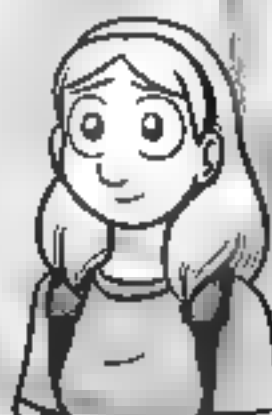


I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF IF
YOU REALLY WANT TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL
WITHOUT EVER GOING ON A DATE.



IT'S THE SORT
OF THING YOU
MIGHT REGRET
LATER.

JUST SOMETHING
TO THINK ABOUT SEE
YOU AROUND



WAS THAT GENUINE CONCERN,
OR DOES HE JUST WANT ME TO
RECONSIDER DATING HIM?

HE IS A
SWEETIE



YOU DON'T
KNOW THAT HE'S
A... WHATEVER A
SWEETIE IS.

AND YOU DON'T
KNOW THAT HE'S
A... WHATEVER
YOU THINK HE IS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I
THINK HE IS! I REALLY CAN'T
TELL IF THAT WAS GENUINE
OR A BUNCH OF BULL.

YOU KNOW THAT'S
NOT MY POLICY

YOU COULD
GIVE HIM THE
BENEFIT OF
THE DOUBT

YOU JUST
GOT REJECTED
AGAIN DIDN'T
YOU?

SORT OF BUT
IT'S OKAY I'M
NOT NEARLY COOL
ENOUGH FOR HER.

REALLY? THEN
WHY'D YOU TURN
AROUND TO MAKE
THAT LAST DITCH
EFFORT?

THAT WASN'T A LAST
DITCH EFFORT I WAS
ENCOURAGING HER TO
GO OUT WITH SOMEONE
BEFORE SHE GRADUATES
NEXT YEAR.

YOU
DID WHAT
NOW?

SHE'S NEVER BEEN ON
A DATE! THAT'S SOME
THING EVERYONE SHOULD
EXPERIENCE AT LEAST ONCE
IN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?

YOU'RE RIGHT YOU'RE NOT
COOL ENOUGH FOR HER.

NO I REALLY
THINK I DO...

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO RUB
IT IN.

WE HAVE SUMMONED YOU. OUR CHILDREN TO THE DEPTHS OF THE LIVING ROOM SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS A MATTER OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE

YOUR SUMMER VACATION.

KRAK-A-THOOM

ELLEN, YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE DISCUSSED IT, AND WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE FREE TO ENJOY WHAT IS TECHNICALLY YOUR "FIRST" SUMMER.

OUR ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT YOU NOT BE LAZY YOU ARE TO EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY THIS SUMMER, NOT WASTE IT!

ALTHOUGH IT IS OKAY IF YOU SLEEP IN A BIT WE GET HOW THAT IS WHEN YOU'RE A TEENAGER

THAT SOUNDS GREAT! THANK YOU!

YOU'RE WELCOME. ELLIOT GET A JOB.

After dinner, dessert, and the brushing of many teeth



LAB ASSISTANT?



NO! BAD BRAIN!



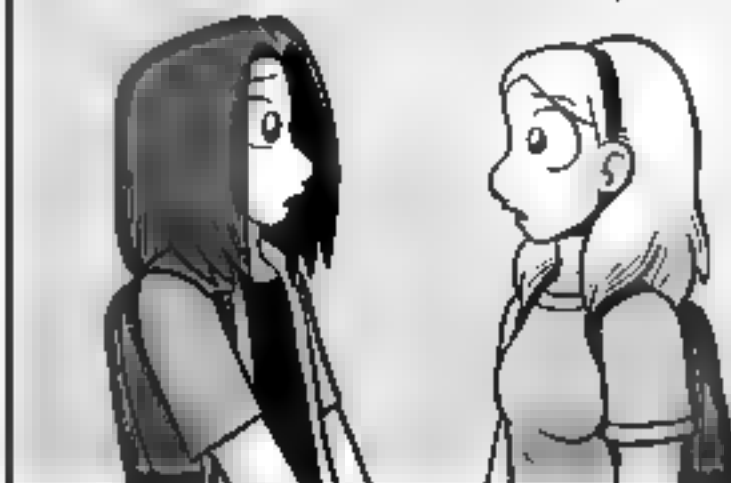
THAT'S BETTER.

LAB ASSISTANT HELP WITH EXPERIMENTS. LEARN HOW THINGS WORK, MAYBE BE A TEST SUBJECT IN SAFE NON-CREEPY EXPERIMENTS.



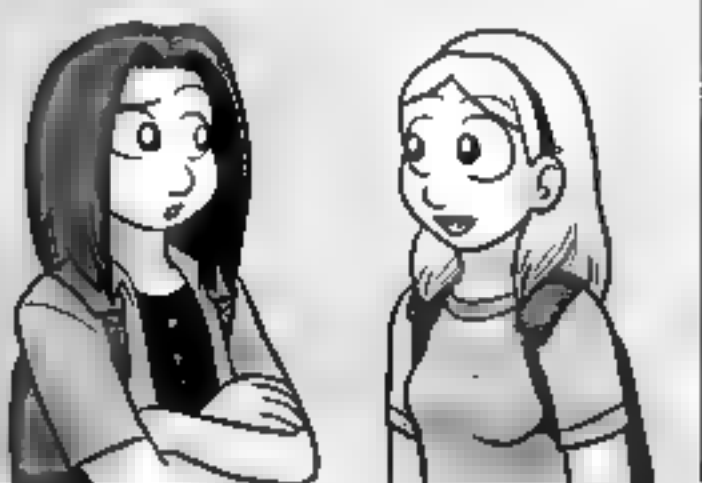
I COULD USE THE HELP BUT BWUH?

I WANT MAGIC YOU MAKE MAGIC. SO LONG AS WE CAN AVOID ANOTHER INCIDENT IT'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO BE A PART OF



HML. OKAY BUT I CAN ONLY PAY YOU IN UNIMAGINABLE POWER.

THAT WORKS.



Wednesday morning

"SORT OF THING
I MIGHT REGRET
LATER"

FEH.

I'M NOT GOING
TO DATE SOMEONE
JUST TO MEET
SOME QUOTA.

WHO CARES IF MY
FIRST DATE IS
AFTER HIGH
SCHOOL? WHO
CARES IF I EVER
DATE AT ALL?

MY WILDEST DATING FANTASIES
ARE ALL PLATONIC. EVERYONE
I'VE EVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT
DATING HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY
INCOMPATIBLE WITH ME.

I THINK EVEN MY INTEREST IN JUSTIN
WAS LARGELY BASED ON HIM NOT BEING
ATTRACTED TO ME, AND IF THERE'S NO
PHYSICAL ATTRACTION WHY BOTHER
PURSUING ANYTHING BEYOND FRIENDSHIP?

AND EVEN IF I DID
HAVE INTEREST WHO AM
I COMPATIBLE WITH?

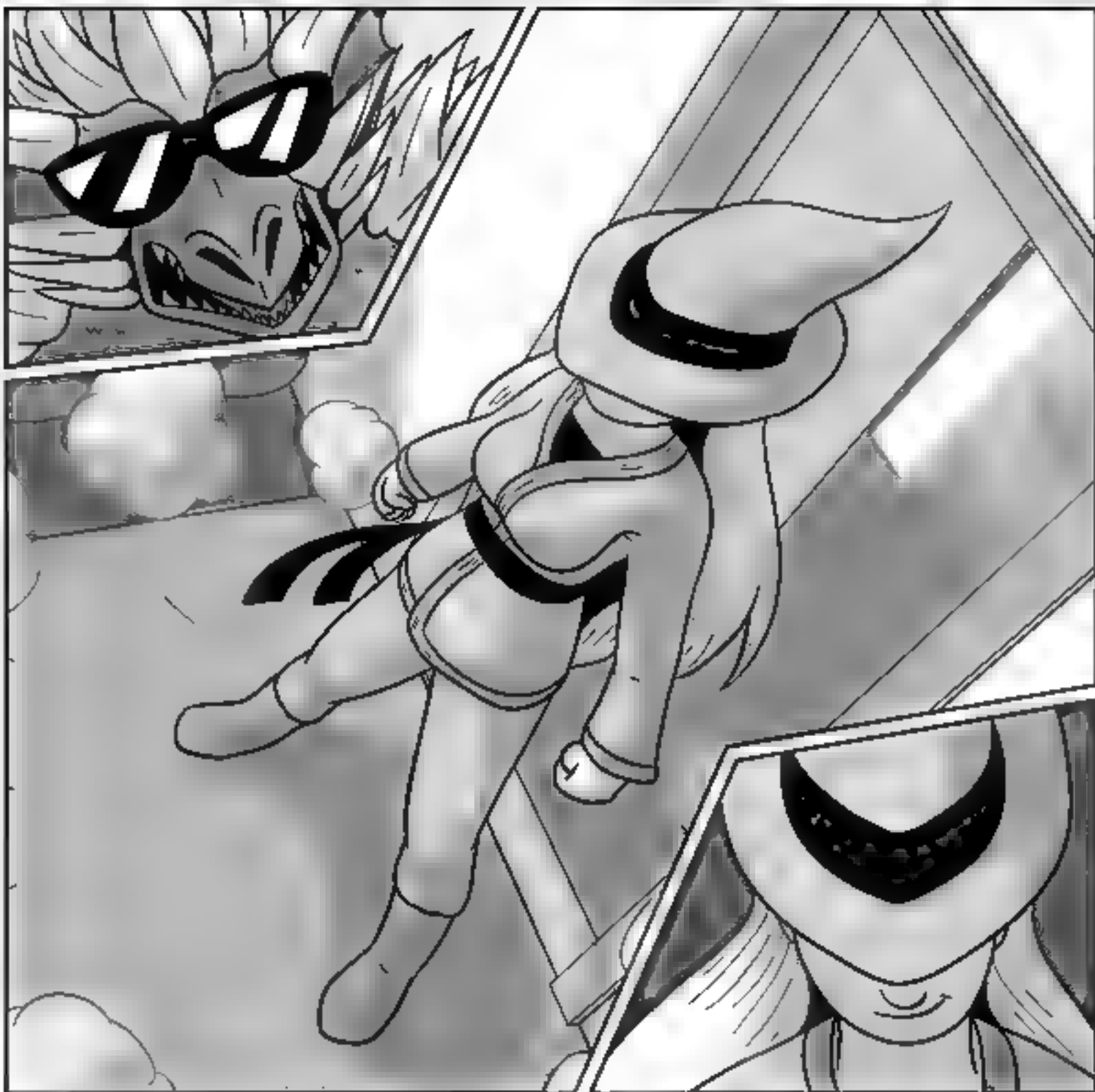
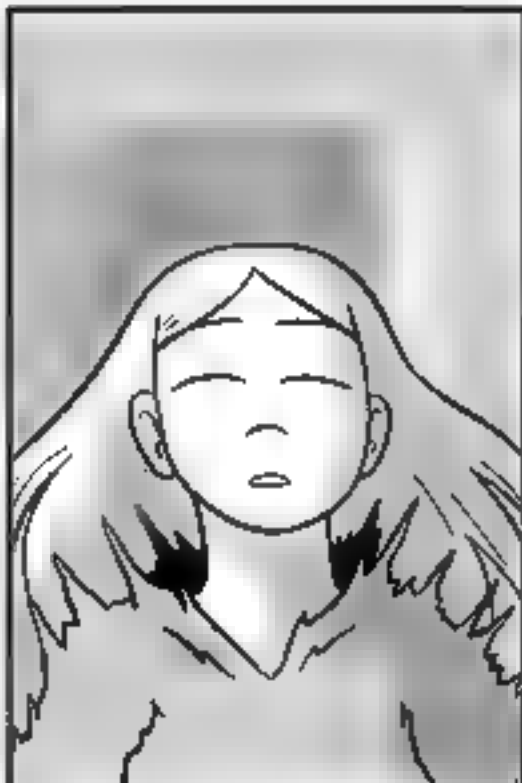
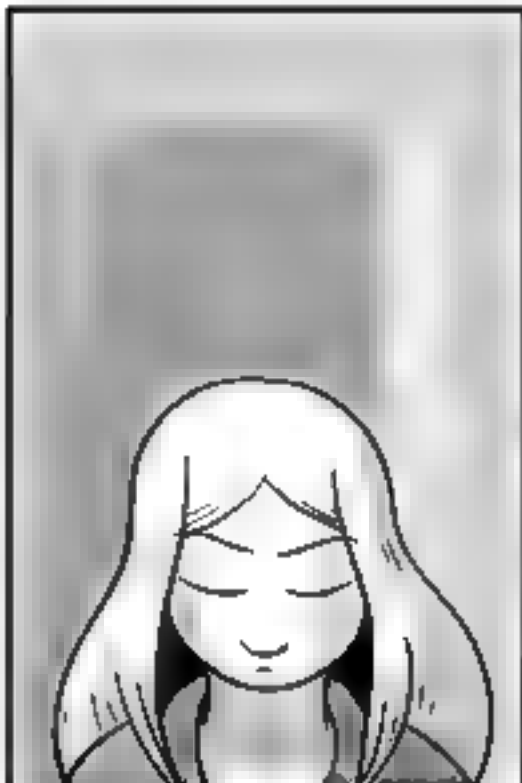
HEY SUSAN?

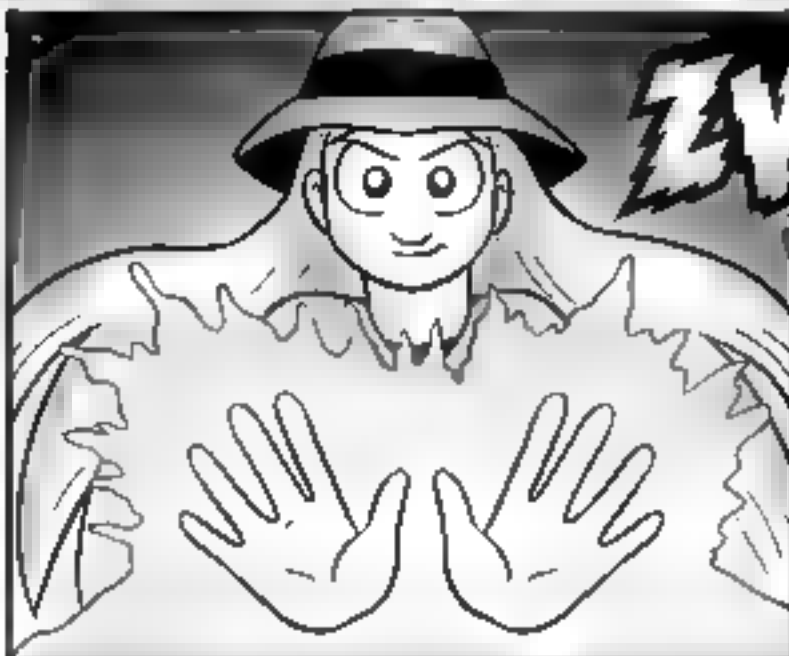
IS THAT RENTAL PLACE
YOU WORK AT HIRING?

The End Of Spring - The end

2025.05.17









YOU CAN
DO THIS,
SARAH.

MAGIC IS AWESOME. TRANS-
FORMATION IS AWESOME YOU
JUST HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE
WITH YOUR FIRST MORPHING.

YOU'VE SPENT
TIME TRANSFORMED
SINCE THEN.

TEDD HAS MATURED.
YOU HAVE MATURED

THE TIME
HAS COME

TO RING
THE DOOR
BELL

**DING-
DONG**



SARAH!
HELLO!

OH! HI
GRACE

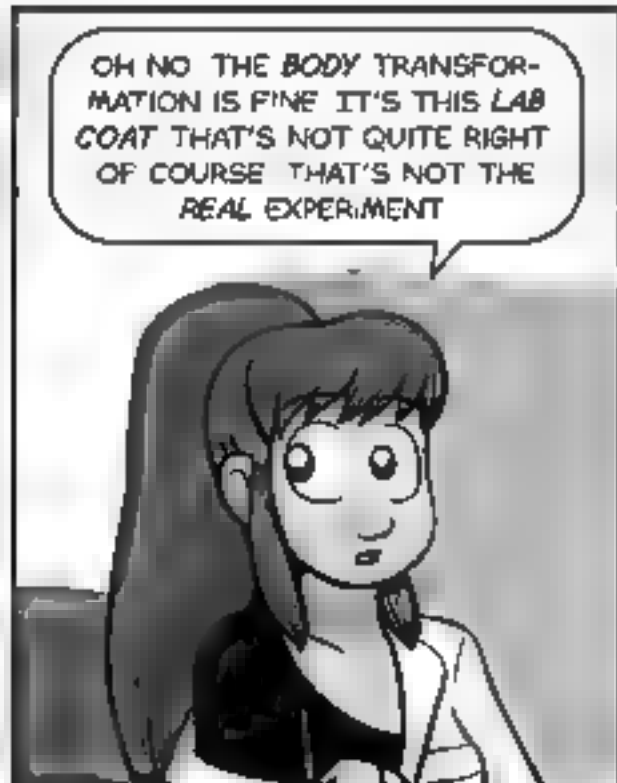
GRACE? I'M
NOT--OH. RIGHT
THE EXPERIMENT

I'M
DOOMED



SORRY ABOUT MY GRACENESS. I'M STILL WORKING OUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WITH THIS TRANSFORMATION.

YOU LOOK AND SOUND EXACTLY LIKE HER.



OH NO THE BODY TRANSFORMATION IS FINE IT'S THIS LAB COAT THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT OF COURSE THAT'S NOT THE REAL EXPERIMENT



OF COURSE IS THE REAL GRACE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE?

SHE'S OUT BUT NANASE'S COMING OVER. I'M HOPING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S UP WITH HER HAIR.



THE RAPID GROWTH. OR THAT COCKATOO HAIR SHE WOUND UP WITH WHEN MALE?

THE FORMER. THOUGH THE LATTER MIGHT BE WORTH INVESTIGATING.



OKAY COOL UM.. ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAY GRACED?

FOR NOW YEAH. SCIENCE AND WHATNOT SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'D LIKE YOU TO TEST SOMETHING. PUT THIS ON. PLEASE?



YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO GIVE ME A TOUR BEFORE USING ME AS A TEST SUBJECT?

I COULD. BUT IT'S BETTER IF YOU'RE UTTERLY CLUELESS BEFORE THIS TEST

THAT IS NOT ENCOURAGING.

DON'T WORRY IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE NOTHING WILL EVEN HAPPEN UNTIL YOU PUSH THE BUTTON.

AND WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

NOTHING BAD.

CLICK

MEOW?!

WHATEVER YOU JUST IMAGINED? NOT THAT HOW COULD I HOPE TO KEEP YOU AS AN ASSISTANT IF THE FIRST THING I DID WAS BETRAY YOUR TRUST?

CLICK

I WILL OBEY

I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR HESITATION BUT YOUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IS A BIG PART OF THE TEST

IF THE CONCLUSION OF THIS TEST SUPPORTS MY HYPOTHESIS, HOWEVER, THERE *WILL* BE A REWARD

WHAT LIKE CAKE?

I WAS THINKING MORE LIKE GIVING YOU A RIDICULOUS AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE WITH ME BUT I DO LIKE TO BAKE

LEVERAGE?

I KNOW YOU'RE HERE IN
SPITE OF ME BEING THE
MADMAN AT THE HELM,
NOT BECAUSE OF IT

I'D LIKE TO BE
UPSET ABOUT THAT
BUT I CAN'T REALLY
BLAME YOU.

AS SUCH I'D LIKE TO NIP YOUR
CONCERNS IN THE BUD IF THIS
TEST GOES AS PLANNED I WILL
GIVE YOU SOMETHING THAT IF
NOTHING ELSE WILL PROVE
HOW MUCH I TRUST YOU.

BUT I HAVE TO
TRUST YOU FIRST

WELL, I'D RATHER GIVE YOU THE
LEVERAGE FIRST, BUT I CAN'T
GIVE IT TO YOU WITHOUT BEING
SURE ABOUT THIS AND I CAN'T
BE SURE ABOUT THIS UNLESS
YOU TEST THIS, SO

YEAH, YOU'VE GOTTA
TRUST ME FIRST

CLICK

NOTHING
HAPPENED.

SUCCESS!

WHAT ARE YOU--
WAIT DID IT TRANSFORM
ME AND MESS WITH MY
MEMORIES?!

AM I
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
WOMAN?!

WHAT? NO! I MEAN, YES! I
MEAN.. IT DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING. YOU HAVE TO
POWER IT WITH YOUR OWN
MAGIC ENERGY FOR THE
BUTTON TO DO ANYTHING.

OH. SO... BECAUSE I
DON'T HAVE ANY MAGIC.

LIKE A WAND? SO IF THIS
WORKS, IT'LL BE LIKE I'M.

HOW DO I POWER IT?

EVERYONE HAS MAGIC ENERGY
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO CAST
SPELLS WITHOUT *HELP* BUT
THAT WATCH IS LIKE A WAND.
IT DOESN'T NEED MUCH.

JUST PRESS THE
BUTTON WITH THE
INTENT TO USE
MAGIC.

OKAY THEN.

MAGIC!

CLICK

IT STILL
DIDN'T--

SUCCESS!

ARE YOU
INSANE?

POSSIBLY ANYWAY
WHEN THE WATCH DOES
WORK IT INCREASES THE
LENGTH OF THE WEARER'S
HAIR FOR HALF AN HOUR.

AND DOES
IT EVER
WORK?

IN THEORY YES. WITH THIS
ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
TRY AGAIN STILL WITH THE
INTENT OF USING MAGIC.

CLICK

OKAY! NOW DO THAT AGAIN,
EXCEPT HOLD DOWN THE
BUTTON WHILE THINKING
"LONGER HAIR" THREE
TIMES, THEN RELEASE!

...PLEASE? I SWEAR
THIS IS ALL FOR A
REASON.

SIGH

CLICK

LONGER HAIR.
LONGER HAIR.
LONGER HAIR.

FWOOMP

HAHAHAHAHA!



SEE? SORRY ABOUT MAKING YOU JUMP THROUGH HOOPS. I NEEDED TO MAKE SURE NOBODY COULD--

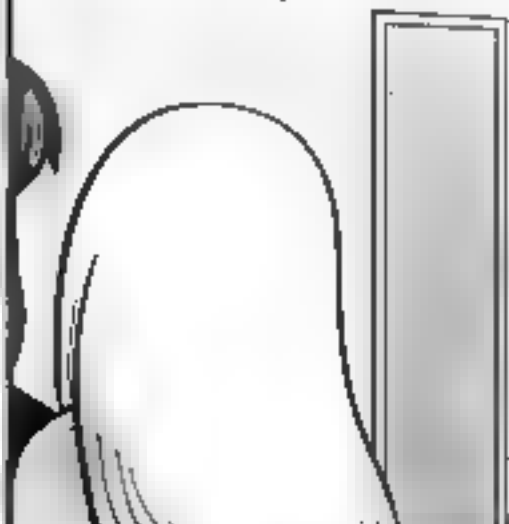


DO YOU HAVE A MIRROR?

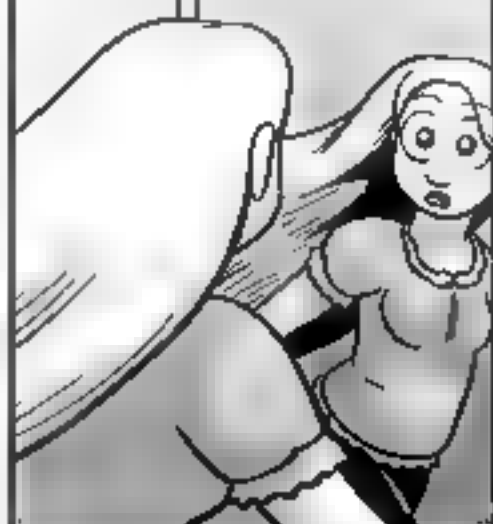
THERE'S ONE BY THE ZAP MAT



AH! HOW DID I MISS--ZAP MAT? OH, I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT LATER!



WOW... I THINK I'VE GOT SUSAN'S HAIR BEAT..



AS I WAS SAYING I NEEDED TO MAKE SURE NOBODY WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTAL, COULD MAKE USE OF THOSE WATCHES WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY HOW TO USE EACH INDIVIDUAL ONE



SO THAT'S THE "LEVERAGE"? ANOTHER WATCH LIKE THIS ONE?



YES. EXCEPT THE SPELLS IN THE WATCH I'M GIVING YOU ARE CLONE FORMS OF ME



CLONE FORMS.
OF YOU? THAT'S
THE LEVERAGE?

YES. WELL, ME AS I
NORMALLY AM, NOT
GRACE AND THE FEMALE
CLONE FORMS ARE JUST
THERE FOR FUNSIES. BUT
YOU GET THE IDEA.

BUT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE LEVERAGE IS THE ABILITY
TO LOOK LIKE YOU AND.

TAKE A
PEEK, OR.

SOMETHING?

NOT REALLY I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT AND
YOU ASSUMING MY FORM DOESN'T REALLY
BOTTER ME SO LONG AS ITS KEPT PRIVATE

WHY IS THAT NOT
COMFORTING?

NONETHELESS. YOU COULD STILL
DO A LOT OF THINGS THAT
WOULD BOTTER ME. YOU COULD
PUBLICLY HUMILIATE ME BLACKMAN.
ME. ALL SORTS OF BAD STUFF!

THAT'S
HORRIBLE

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I EXPECT
YOU TO EVER ACTUALLY DO ANY-
THING LIKE THAT I JUST WANT
YOU TO HAVE THE OPTION.



TEDD THIS IS
UNNECESSARY

IT IS ENTIRELY
NECESSARY I NEED
YOU TO TRUST ME



THE GESTURE
IS ENOUGH. I
DON'T NEED
THE WATCH.

WHAT AND LET YOU
WONDER IF IT WAS ALL
A BLUFF? NO PLEASE
TAKE THE WATCH



OKAY FINE
I'LL TAKE IT
BUT I M NEVER
USING IT

WELL, LIKE I
SAID WHATEVER
YOU DO WITH IT
IN PRIVATE IS--



**BEEP
BEEP
BEEP**



AH! THAT
MAKES
FIFTEEN
HOURS.

FIFTEEN
HOURS OF
WHAT?



LOOKING
LIKE GRACE

LOOKING
LIKE--YOU'VE BEEN
THAT WAY FOR OVER
HALF A DAY?!



YEP! FORM S
ONLY SUPPOSED
TO LAST A HALF
HOUR. TOO

.. ISN'T THAT
HOW LONG YOU SAID
THIS HAIR MORPH IS
SUPPOSED TO LAST?

YEP!

RELAX. YOUR HAIR GROWTH WON'T LAST FIFTEEN HOURS UNLESS YOU WANT IT TO.

HECK YOU CAN JUST USE THE WATCH AGAIN TO REVERSE IT



"WHILE DOING EXPERIMENTS WITH ELLIOT I REALIZED THAT ANY TRANSFORMATION I TESTED ON HIM WAS LASTING HOWEVER LONG I TOLD HIM THEY WOULD LAST IN SPITE OF HIS MAGIC RESISTANCE."



"I TRIED NOT TELLING HIM HOW LONG THEY WOULD LAST, AND HE WAS BACK TO NORMAL IN A LITTLE OVER HALF THE TIME THE FORMS WERE DESIGNED TO LAST "



SO IF YOU CONVINCED ME MY HAIR GROWTH WAS GOING TO LAST FIFTEEN HOURS... IT WOULD?



I THINK SO IF YOU WANTED IT TO. BEING OKAY WITH A TRANSFORMATION SEEMS TO KEEP IT GOING BUT THAT DURATION IS THIRTY TIMES AS LONG AS IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.



I'M NOT SURE IF RESISTANCE CAN BE COUNTERACTED ENTIRELY IF SOMEONE'S NOT OKAY WITH A TRANSFORMATION. I HOPE NOT IN ANY CASE

AND YOU WERE OKAY WITH LOOKING LIKE GRACE FOR FIFTEEN HOURS.



OH, LIKE THAT'S THE LEAST BIT SHOCKING.



ELLIOT HOW EXACTLY
DOES *THIS* COUNT AS GETTING
READY FOR A JOB INTERVIEW?

I MEAN. YEAH.
THAT'S ONE WAY TO
GET HIRED. BUT.

I'M BURNING OFF AS
MUCH MAGIC ENERGY
I CAN. OKAY?

WHY? DO YOU
FEEL LIKE YOU
HAVE A LOT
BUILT UP?

WELL, NO.
NOT ANY MORE
THAN ON A
NORMAL DAY

SO YOU'RE
JUST PLAYING
IT SAFE?

WHATEVER CAN
GO WRONG WILL
GO WRONG

I'M SURE
IT'LL BE

OOH! I SHOULD INTERVIEW
FOR THE JOB IN *THIS* FORM!
IT HAS SO MUCH ENERGY
AND CAN-DO SPIRIT!

IT ALSO
HAS THE
JUDGMENT OF
A CHIPMUNK.

CHIPMUNKS HAVE
EXCELLENT JUDGMENT!
THEY PREPARE FOR WINTER
AND EVERYTHING



THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME GET THIS INTERVIEW, SUSAN.

YOU'RE WELCOME JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT I CAN'T GUARANTEE HE'LL HIRE YOU.



RIGHT DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS?

BE YOURSELF, AND DON'T TRY TO LIE ABOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MOVIES OR VIDEO GAMES.



WHY WOULD I?

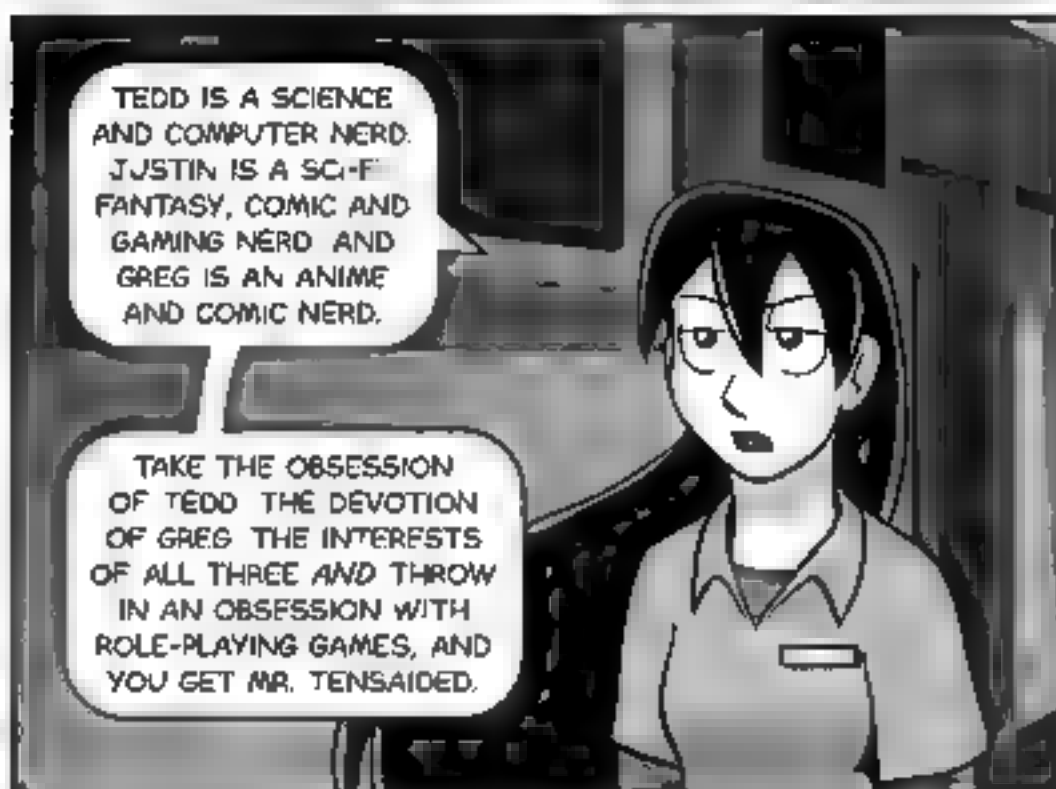
EVEN IF THIS WASN'T A PLACE TO RENT THOSE THINGS, MR. TENSAIDER IS A HUGE NERD.

HE WILL TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSIDER IT WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO HIRE YOU



IS THAT ALL? I'M FRIENDS WITH TEDD AND JUSTIN! AND I WAS TRAINED BY GREG.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING ALONG WITH HIM.



TEDD IS A SCIENCE AND COMPUTER NERD. JUSTIN IS A SCI-FI, FANTASY, COMIC AND GAMING NERD AND GREG IS AN ANIME AND COMIC NERD.

TAKE THE OBSESSION OF TEDD THE DEVOTION OF GREG THE INTERESTS OF ALL THREE AND THROW IN AN OBSESSION WITH ROLE-PLAYING GAMES, AND YOU GET MR. TENSAIDER.



THAT.. IS A BIG NERD BUT I AM NOT AFRAID.

YOU WILL BE



HELLO. MR. ANDERSON



WELCOME TO THE VIDEO STORE



HELLO! IT'S. UH, DUNKEL, ACTUALLY ELLIOT DUNKEL.



RRRIGHT WELL. MR DUNKEL. I AM MR. TENSAIDED. WALK WITH ME



I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY GRINDED FOR EXPERIENCE AS A CASHIER IN A GROCERY STORE

YES. SIR

DON'T CALL ME SIR. DID YOU LIKE WORKING THERE?



BUT THE COUPON ONLY EXPIRED YESTERDAY.

CAN'T YOU TELL ONE FROM ANOTHER?

WHAT'YA MEAN YOU CAN'T SELL ME ALCOHOL?!

I'M GOING TO PAY WITH THREE CHECKS.

THIS IS WHY I NEVER GO TO THE LAKE WITH THE ROOKIE.

DID THEY TRAIN YOU AT ALL?!



MR. DUNKEL?

I CAN'T GO BACK

WHAT?

IT WAS OKAY

DO YOU ENJOY
MOVIES, MR.
DUNKEL?

OF COURSE! I
USUALLY WATCH
AT LEAST ONE
A WEEK



GOING TO THE
MOVIES THAT
OFTEN MUST
GET EXPENSIVE

OH. I DON'T GO TO THE
THEATERS THAT MUCH.
HECK, I'M USUALLY THE
LAST OF MY FRIENDS TO
SEE NEW MOVIES--



--BEEEECAUSE RENTING
MOVIES IS AWESOME AND
CONVENIENT AND I'D LOVE
TO BE A PART OF IT?



UH-HUH. YOU PLAY
VIDEO GAMES?

SOMETIMES. MOSTLY JUST
AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE.

WATCH TV
SHOWS?

A FEW! THERE'S SOME
ANIME I LIKE BUT I MOSTLY
JUST WATCH THEM.



WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU'RE QUITE THE
EXTROVERT

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT THAT MEANS.

IT'S NOT IMPORTANT DO
YOU EVER ROLEPLAY?



IS THAT AN APPROPRIATE
QUESTION TO BE ASKING
IN A JOB INTERVIEW?





LOOK, MR. TENSAIDED, I KNOW ELLIOT ISN'T EXACTLY ROGER EBERT BUT--

I PREFER INDEPENDENT REVIEWERS ON THE INTERNET THEY SWEAR MORE THUS MAKING THEM MORE REAL

NOTED. MY POINT IS, HE'S A GENUINELY NICE GUY AND A HARD WORKER HE'S NOT A MOVIE EXPERT BUT HE'D DO A GOOD JOB.

AND WHEN SOMEONE ASKS HIM ABOUT A MOVIE OR FOR A SIMPLE RECOMMENDATION?



HE CAN DO THE SAME AS I DO WHEN I DON'T KNOW CHECK THE CRITIC APPROVAL PERCENTAGES.

SUSAN, YOU ARE AN *EXCELLENT* EMPLOYEE AND I KNOW HE'S YOUR FRIEND BUT I'M NOT GOING TO HIRE SOMEONE WHO--

HE... WHAT?

HE KNOWS CHEERLEADRA.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT EVERY TIME I'M BETTING HE WOULD. I CAN HIRE *BETTER* THAN THAT



HE WON'T ADMIT IT TO JUST ANYONE BUT HE DOES. HE IS LOIS LANE TO HER *SUPERMAN* HIS WORKING HERE IS THE BEST CHANCE YOU HAVE OF EVER MEETING HER.







IF WHAT I DID WAS
SO HORRIBLE YOU
COULD ALWAYS TURN
DOWN THE JOB.

POTATOES

N-NO. YOU DID HELP ME AND
IT'S NOT THAT HORRIBLE WE
JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE
HE ACTUALLY DOES GET TO
MEET CHEERLEADRA.

THEREBY CONFIRMING THAT
YOU KNOW HER BRILLIANT

THEREBY CONFIRMING THAT YOU DIDN'T
LIE TO HIM, THAT CHEERLEADRA ISN'T ANY OF
OUR FRIENDS AND NOT LETTING THE POOR
GUY DOWN AFTER GETTING HIS HOPES UP

DID YOU SEE HOW HAPPY
HE WAS? NOT LETTING HIM
MEET HER WOULD BE LIKE
LYING TO A KID ABOUT
GETTING THEM A PUPPY

AND IF
HE HITS
ON YOU?

YOU'RE ACTUALLY CONCERNED
ABOUT LETTING DOWN TENSATED?

WE GET TO FIND
OUT IF I CAN
MOVE FAST
ENOUGH TO MAKE
A SONIC BOOM.

HEH. YOU'RE MORE
CHARITABLE THAN I
AM. BUT I GUESS
YOUR PLAN MAKES
SOME SENSE

THANKS. I JUST NEED
TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER
I WANT TEDD OR GRACE
POSING AS THE "REAL" ME
WHEN HE MEETS HER.

I RETRACT
MY PREVIOUS
STATEMENT

UNLESS TENSAIDED IS GOING TO BE
SEEING CHEERLEADRA MORE THAN
ONCE HAVING A FAKE YOU PRESENT
IS UNNECESSARILY WACKY



AS OPPOSED TO
NECESSARILY WACKY

JUST WAIT UNTIL TENSAIDED GETS
TOO OVERT WITH HIS QUESTIONS. THEN
"TELL" CHEERLEADRA ABOUT IT THAT
SHOULD GIVE US A FEW WEEKS TO
FIGURE OUT HOW SHE SHOULD RESPOND.



THAT'S PROBABLY A
BETTER IDEA THAN
LETTING TEDD MAKE
A CLONE FORM OF--

QUIET!
HE'S COMING
OVER.



HEYYYY ELLIOT
DO YOU LIKE
SUPERHEROES?

UM, SURE
YEAH.



INNNNTERESTING



JUSTIN AND I WILL
HAVE A STRATEGY FOR HER
RESPONSE BY MONDAY









GRACE THIS IS GEORGE
SHOULD YOU WORK HERE. YOUR
FIRST CHALLENGE WILL BE NOT
STRANGLING THIS MAN.



THAT SHOULDN'T
BE TOO HARD.
HE'S MUCH TALLER
THAN ME.

NOT PUNCHING
ME IN THE
BELLY THEN.



ARE YOU *ALREADY*
INFLUENCING THIS
POOR YOUNG WOMAN
TO INTJURE GEORGE?

BEST SHE BE
PREPARED FOR
THE BLOODJST
FROM THE
START BOSS.



PERHAPS YOU
ARE RIGHT GRACE.
I PRESUME?

UM. YES!
HELLO.



JIM TOLKIBERRY PROPRIETOR OF THIS
AND THREE OTHER SALTY CRACKERS COMICS
LOCATIONS IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU

MUSTACHE I-I
MEAN, LIKEWISE.



YES, MY WHISKERS
ARE QUITE THE
CONVERSATIONAL PIECE.
COME LET US DISCUSS
YOUR EMPLOYMENT

MY NEPHEW TELLS ME THIS IS YOUR FIRST JOB INTERVIEW YES?

YES.

THEN I FEEL I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT THIS WILL NOT BE A TYPICAL JOB INTERVIEW. YOU SHOULD EXPECT MORE QUESTIONS, JUDGMENT, AND LESS CERTAINTY WITH FUTURE INTERVIEWS.

BUT THIS JOB INTERVIEW WON'T BE LIKE THAT?

JUSTIN VOUCHES FOR YOU. THAT'S JUST SHY OF GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IF HE DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE CAPABLE OF DOING A GOOD JOB.

FRANKLY IT'S ONE LESS HELP WANTED POSTING AND A LOT LESS WORK FOR ME IF I HIRE YOU!

NORMALLY AN INTERVIEW WOULD BOIL DOWN TO THE MATTER OF WHETHER I WANT TO HIRE YOU. THAT, HOWEVER, IS A GIVEN. THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER YOU WILL ACCEPT THE JOB.

IS THERE A REASON I SHOULDN'T?

THAT IS WHAT I INTEND TO FIND OUT

A COUPLE YEARS AGO JUSTIN WAS GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME



"HIS PARENTS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR HIM TO WORK SOMEWHERE IDEAL FOR HIM AND RUN BY SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC. I HIRED HIM WITHOUT HESITATION."



HE MUST HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL.

I'M SURE HE WAS ON SOME LEVEL. MOSTLY, THOUGH. HE RESENTED IT

REALLY? I THOUGHT HE LIKED IT HERE



"HE DID AND HE DOES BUT HE FELT HE HADN'T EARNED THE POSITION. HE BELIEVED HE'D ONLY BEEN HIRED OUT OF PITY WHICH, TO BE FAIR, WAS ACCURATE."



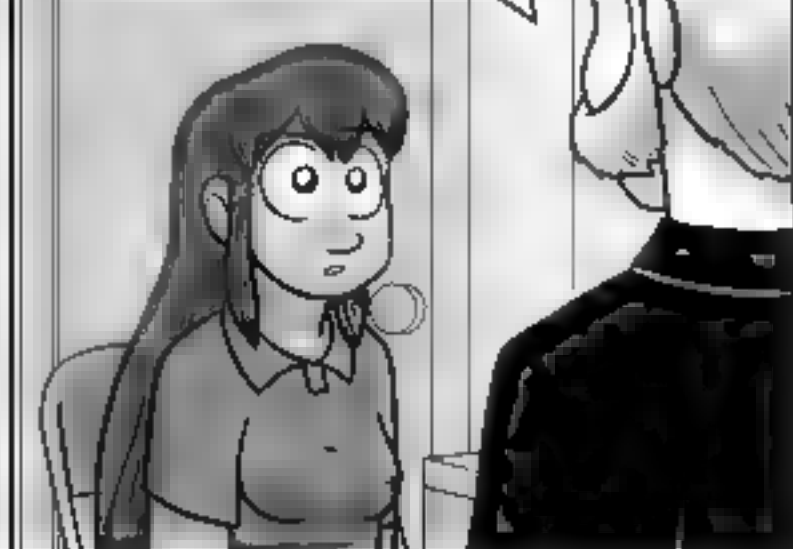
"MANY PEOPLE HANDED SUCH A POSITION WOULD HAVE MADE A MINIMAL EFFORT JUSTIN WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND. HE WAS DETERMINED TO EARN HIS PLACE IN THE COMIC SHOP AND HE DID. HELL, THE K.D.'S MANAGEMENT MATERIAL."



POINT IS. YES, THE JOB IS YOURS IF YOU WANT IT BUT JUSTIN'S PUTTING HIS FAITH IN YOU. IF THAT BOY RECOMMENDED YOU FOR THIS JOB HE BELIEVES YOU'LL GIVE IT YOUR BEST EFFORT



IF HE'S RIGHT THEN BY ALL MEANS. THE JOB IS YOURS. IF YOU DON'T PLAN TO TAKE THE JOB SERIOUSLY THEN DO US ALL A FAVOR AND TURN IT DOWN.





I WANT TO EARN MONEY AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO REPAY THE KINDNESS I'VE BEEN GIVEN. JUSTIN IS MY FRIEND. I WOULD NOT BE HERE IF I DIDN'T INTEND TO TAKE THE JOB SERIOUSLY



I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT! I TAKE IT THAT--



I WILL DO THE BEST JOB I CAN. I WILL UPHOLD THE HONOR OF THIS COMIC SHOP I WILL DEFEND IT FROM ITS FOES. STAND GUARD OVER THE REGISTER. *DOUBLE CHECK THE INVENTORY--*



WHOA. WHOA THERE IT'S JUST A COMIC SHOP I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT SHOWING UP FOR WORK ON TIME AND STUFF



OH.

ALL THE SAME. I APPRECIATE YOUR ABILITY TO LEAP HEADLONG INTO MELODRAMA. THAT COULD BE AN ASSET IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.



YH. THANKS. SO... I'VE GOT THE JOB?

THAT'S UP TO YOU.

THEN I'M HIRED!





DING-DONG!

THAT'LL BE
NANASE.

I'LL LET HER IN. I
HAVEN'T GOTTEN
TO SEE HER IN A
WHILE AND I LOOK
FORWARD TO IT

SWEET LESS STAIRS FOR ME

DARN IT I'M FINE WITH NANASE! SO
WHAT IF SHE USED TO DATE ELIJOT
AND MAKE OUT WITH HIM AND KISS HIM
PASSIONATELY AFTER SPARRING AND.

WHOOSH WHOOSH
WHOOSH

OKAY MAYBE I SHOULDN'T THINK
ABOUT IT TOO MUCH, BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY REASON TO
FEEL JEALOUS OF HER NOW

OH! HEY SARAH!
FINALLY DOING THE LAB
ASSISTANT THING?



HEY NANAS-
WOW! YOUR
HAIR REALLY IS
GROWING FAST

YOU HAVEN'T
CUT IT SINCE I
LAST SAW YOU
HAVE YOU?

NO I'VE
BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU TO
TAKE A BETTER
LOOK AT IT

UNLESS YOU GIVE
ME A GOOD REASON
NOT TO HOW
EVER, IT'S GETTING
CHOPPED ASAP

I MIGHT HAVE
A GOOD REASON
NOT TO.

IT IS.
SUMMER.

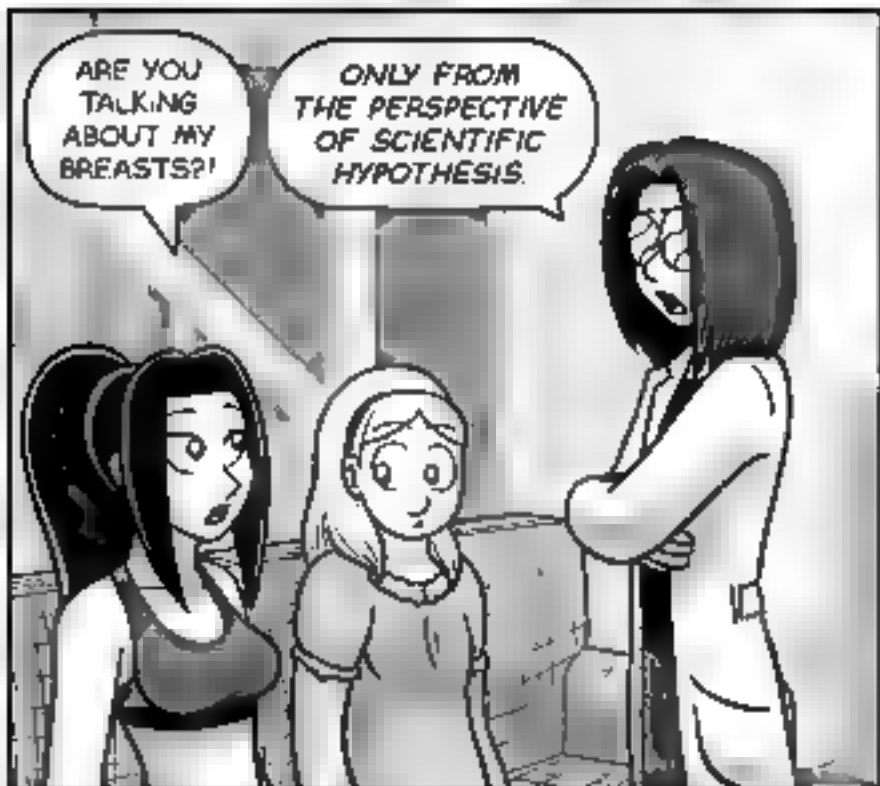
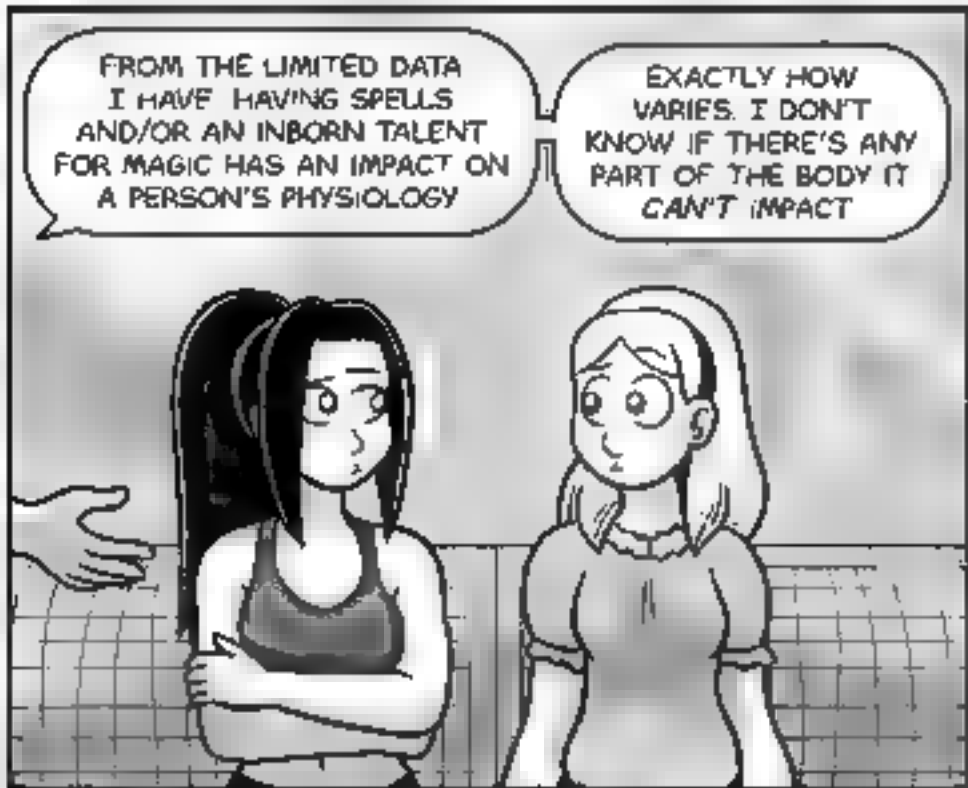
I'M NOT SAYING YOU
SHOULD KEEP IT LONG. WE
MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE AN
ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO
KEEP YOUR HAIR SHORT

WHAT LIKE
WITH THE TRANS-
FORMATION GUN?
THANKS. BUT I
THINK I'D PREFER
THE HAIRCUTS.

I HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN
MIND BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOUR
MAGIC AND WHY YOUR HAIR IS
GROWING IN THE FIRST PLACE

AND DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHY NANASE'S
TURNING INTO
RAPUNZEL?

I BELIEVE I DO!
HANG ON A SEC. THESE
THEORIES ARE TOTALLY
LAB COAT WORTHY



MY POINT IS THAT NO PART OF THE BODY SEEMS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE THAN PEOPLE'S HAIR.

I THINK YOU'RE GENERATING MAGIC YOU CAN'T USE AND INSTEAD OF ENERGY BUILDUP IT'S MAKING YOUR HAIR GROW



SO IT'S JUST THE EASIEST WAY FOR MY BODY TO USE JP MAGIC RIGHT NOW?



POSSIBLY IT COULD PROBABLY MANIFEST IN OTHER WAYS BUT MAGIC SEEMS TO HAVE A MIND OF ITS OWN. I THINK IT'S MAKING YOUR HAIR GROW BECAUSE IT'S RELATIVELY SAFE

AS OPPOSED TO PUMPING UP MY MUSCLES OR BRA SIZE.

YEAH.

HOORAY FOR HAIR GROWING



THIS IS ALL SPECULATION. OF COURSE DID YOU HAVE ANY SPELLS RELATED TO HAIR? I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS, BUT IT MIGHT SO



I DID, ACTUALLY THE DAY BEFORE I BURNED OUT I GOT A SPELL THAT COULD MANIPULATE MY HAIR LENGTH, COLOR AND STYLE

OH MY GOD. I'M SORRY I... I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D LOST A SPELL LIKE THAT AND AFTER ONLY A DAY!

UH. YEAH. I...



I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

... THANKS?



SO IS THERE ANY WAY TO USE ALL THIS TO SPEED UP GETTING MY MAGIC BACK?



NO. AT LEAST NOT THAT I KNOW OF YET

IF I'M RIGHT ABOUT YOU STILL HAVING MAGIC ENERGY HOWEVER, THEN I CAN HELP KEEP YOUR HAIR SHORT IN THE MEANTIME



I'LL EXPLAIN EXACTLY HOW IN A MOMENT BUT FIRST I NEED YOU TO--



IS THAT A MAGIC WATCH THAT WILL MAKE MY HAIR SHORT?



YOU WEREN'T SERIOUSLY GOING TO MAKE HER TEST A WATCH STEP-BY-STEP LIKE YOU DID WITH ME.



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW STATISTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT THE AMOUNT OF TEST DATA I HAVE IS?!

YES.



WHATEVER IT'S LIKE A WAND IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR HAIR SHORT USING YOUR OWN MAGIC

PUT IT ON. HOLD DOWN THE BUTTON WHILE THINKING "SHORT HAIR" THREE TIMES THEN RELEASE IF YOU CAN USE IT IT SHOULD LAST AS LONG AS YOU WANT



AND HOW EXACTLY IS IT YOU CAN MAKE MAGIC WATCHES NOW?



BECAUSE SCIENCE WHATEVER I'M DONE EXPOSITING. YOU'VE TAKEN THE JOY OUT OF IT







YOUR HAIR'S GROWING

IT GREW?!



NO GROWING, AS IN STILL GOING!

WHY IS IT GROWING?!



I DON'T KNOW!

FIGURE IT OUT!



OKAY OKAY UH. THE MAGIC ENERGY YOU CAN'T USE FOR SPELLS WAS MAKING YOUR HAIR LONGER, SO...

MAYBE WHEN YOU TRIED TO USE THAT ENERGY FOR A WATCH SPELL. IT MADE YOUR HAIR LONGER INSTEAD OF CASTING IT?



HUH. THAT ACTUALLY SOUNDED PRETTY PLAUSIBLE

FANTASTIC. HOW DO WE STOP IT?

OH I'M SURE IT WILL STOP SOON.



TEDD...

ANNNY SECOND NOW



WHAT THE SITH WAS THAT ABOUT?

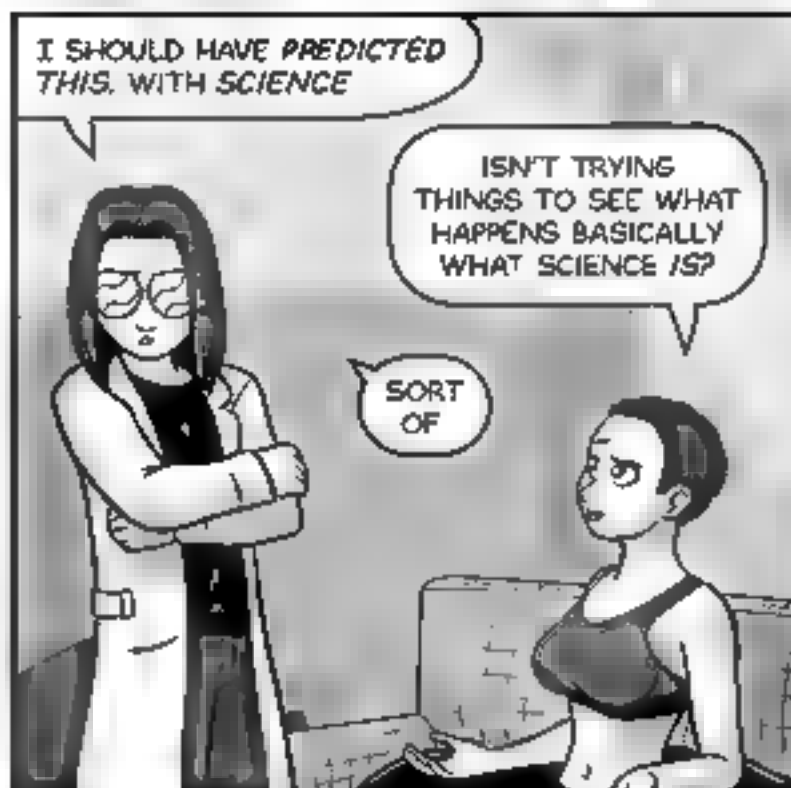
I . I DON'T KNOW WEIRD.

THE DEED IS DONE

OKAY IF WE'RE LUCKY MY HAIR WILL STOP GROWING BEFORE IT NEEDS TO BE SHAVED AGAIN. AND.

MY HAIR'S STOPPED GROWING, HASN'T IT?

YES.







THIS DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE
WHY WASN'T I
AFFECTED?

YOU DID BRACE
YOURSELF MAYBE
YOU RESISTED IT

IF ANY OF US THREE
WERE GOING TO RESIST IT IT
SHOULD HAVE BEEN SARAH.



ME? I BARELY
MEET THE
QUALIFICATIONS
TO USE YOUR
WATCHES.

HOW AM I
MOST LIKELY TO
RESIST A SPELL?



BETWEEN NANASE BEING
BURNED OUT AND MY... TRUST ME
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU
SHOULD BE THE SPELL RESISTANCE
CHAMPION OF THE BASEMENT

YOUR
WHAT?



MY WHAT
WHAT?

BETWEEN MY
BEING BURNED
OUT AND YOUR
WHAT? WHAT'S
YOUR THING?



I DON'T HAVE
A THING.

YOU CLEARLY
HAVE A THING.

NOT A
RELEVANT
THING

I THINK IT IS A
RELEVANT THING!



MY THING IS
MY BUSINESS, AND--
SARAH, WHY ARE YOU
LAUGHING?

~~SNICKER~~
THING. I MEAN,
NOTHING.

LOOK, WHAT MATTERS NOW
IS SORTING OUT WHAT WE
DO ABOUT THIS

FAIR ENOUGH. ANY
THOUGHTS ON HOW
PERMANENT THIS
HAIR GROWTH IS?

HM... *ENTIRELY* I MEAN, YOU
CAN CUT IT AND IT WILL GROW
AND STUFF BUT THIS HAIR
GROWTH *ISN'T* AN ENCHANT-
MENT

AND YOU
JUST KNOW
THAT?

WORK WITH THIS STUFF LONG
ENOUGH, AND YOU START TO
DEVELOP A SENSE FOR THIS
SORT OF THING

MORE LIKE YOU DEVELOP A
FANCY NEW SETTING FOR
YOUR HIGH-TECH GLASSES.

OKAY... AND DO
YOU "SENSE" ANY
ENCHANTMENTS
AT ALL?

NO IT APPEARS ALL THAT
HAPPENED WHEN THE HAIR
VANISHED WAS YOUR AND
SARAH'S HAIR GREW

OF COURSE
IT DIDN'T *ALL*
VANISH.

THOSE HAIRS
LOOK ABOUT AS
LONG AS MY HAIR
WAS BEFORE I
USED THE WATCH.

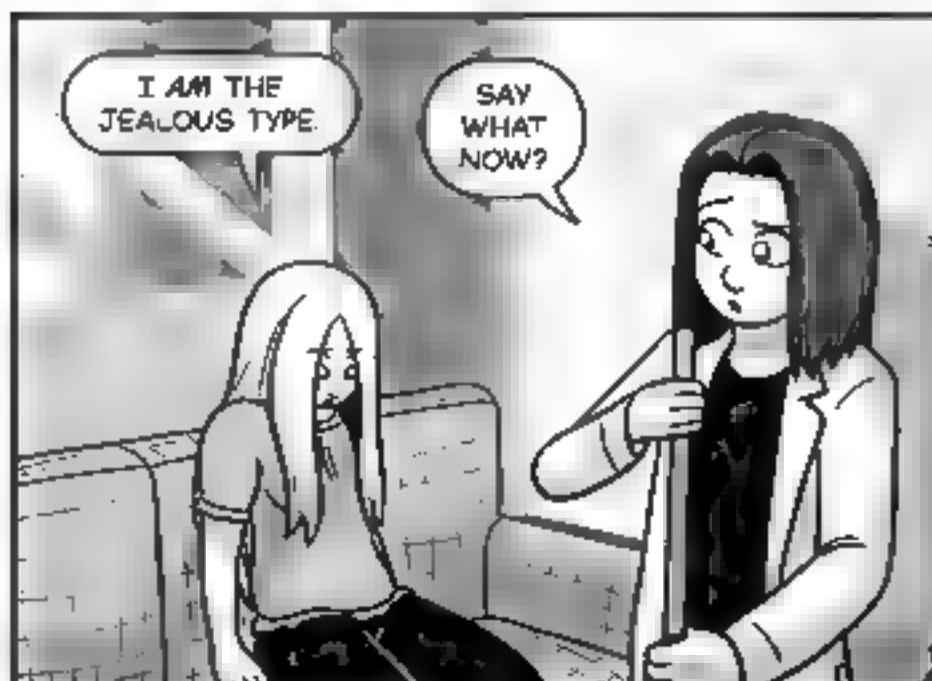
I GUESS
ONLY THE
"NEW" HAIR
VANISHED.

MY CURRENT
CONCLUSIONS ARE "I'M
BAFFLED" AND "SARAH
NEEDS A HAIRCUT"

OR A HAIR
ZAPPING?

WHAT? HAIRCUTS
COST MONEY

A bit later, after Nanase departs with more questions than answers and effectively the haircut she wanted anyway



JUST TO BE CLEAR I DON'T HOLD ANY OF THIS AGAINST NANASE. SHE'S EARNED EVERYTHING SHE HAS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

NEITHER DO I. IT'S JUST

SHE'S ATHLETIC. SMART. TRILINGUAL. CAN KICK THE ASS OF ANYONE WHO MESSSES WITH HER. IS THEORETICALLY GOOD LOOKING ENOUGH THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE NICE TO HER BY DEFAULT (I WOULDN'T KNOW BECAUSE SHE'S MY COUSIN).

AU REVOIR!

AND WHEN SHE'S NOT BURNED OUT SHE'S AN *INSANELY* POTENT MAGIC USER.

I DON'T THINK SHE EVEN GETS HOW *NUTS* SOME OF HER SPELLS ARE.

NOT THAT I CAN REALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT MY OWN LACK OF MAGIC I'M *SPOILED ROTTEN* WITH TECH OVER HERE.

THAT, AND IF YOUR DAD'S ANY INDICATION, YOU'VE PROBABLY GOT ALL SORTS OF MAGIC POTENTIAL

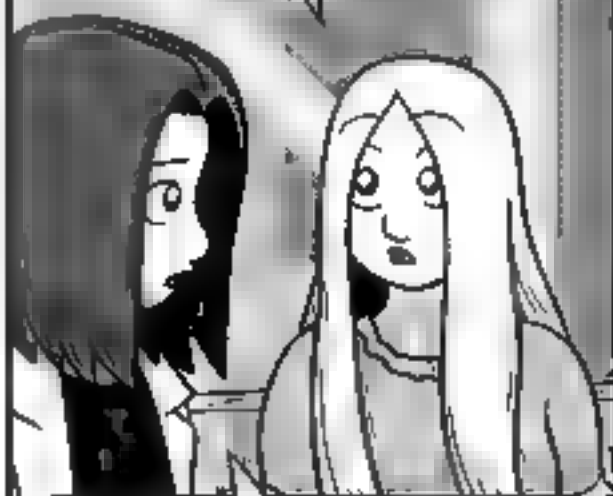
NO I DON'T

WHAT? BUT ..

THAT'S MY "THING" I'M MAGICALLY IMPAIRED

I'LL NEVER HAVE SPELLS OF MY OWN.

YOU'LL NEVER... HOW CAN YOU KNOW?



WHEN MY DAD FIRST EXPLAINED HOW "EVERYONE" CAN GET MAGIC TO US, I HAD FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS.

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW I REACTED TO THAT LOUD MAGIC ANALYSIS WAND?



IT SOUNDS LIKE A MONSTER THAT'S ABOUT TO BITE SOMEONE'S HEAD OFF!



VRRRRMMMM

APPARENTLY THAT WAS A CONDITIONED RESPONSE FROM HEARING IT FREQUENTLY AS A BABY WHILE MY PARENTS TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHY I HAD ZERO MAGIC POTENTIAL.



THEY CAN DETECT THAT THAT EARLY ON?

I GUESS I'VE STAYED THE HELL AWAY FROM IT SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL IT CAN DO.



BUT EARLIER, YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE THINGS DIDN'T ADD UP..?



I CAN RESIST ENCHANTMENTS ONCE THEY'RE ON ME. BUT I SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE SPELLS THAT PUT THEM THERE.

OR DO OTHER STUFF LIKE THE HAIR GROWTH.



IT STILL ADDS UP THOUGH. IT JUST MEANS NANASE WAS WRONG.



OR YOUR PARENTS WERE WRONG! WE SHOULD SEE IF YOU CAN RESIST OTHER STUFF

MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THE IDEA OF THEM BEING WRONG.

WHY NOT?



I DON'T KNOW BUT THINKING ABOUT IT IS BRINGING ON THE ANGST

I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH SCIENCE FOR TODAY YOU CAN HANG OUT IF YOU WANT BUT YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY GET A HAIRCUT BEFORE YOU GO HOME

BUT ..

DON'T WORRY, I'LL PAY FOR IT IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.

THAT'S GENEROUS. BUT YOU STILL HAVE THE WATCH YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE NANASE CAN'T I JUST USE THAT FOR A WHILE INSTEAD?

YOU MEAN THE WATCH THAT WENT TOTALLY HAYWIRE AND GOT YOUR HAIR INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHY NOT? YOUR THEORY IS THAT THE WATCH ITSELF IS FINE RIGHT? HOW ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO TEST THAT WITHOUT HAVING SOMEONE ELSE TRY IT?

I GUESS YOU HAVE A POINT AND IT'S AN ENCHANTMENT YOU WANT THAT'S DESIGNED TO LAST A WEEK, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM TO MAINTAIN.

OKAY FINE IF IT IS WORKING PROPERLY YOU CAN USE IT FOR A WHILE

AWESOME!

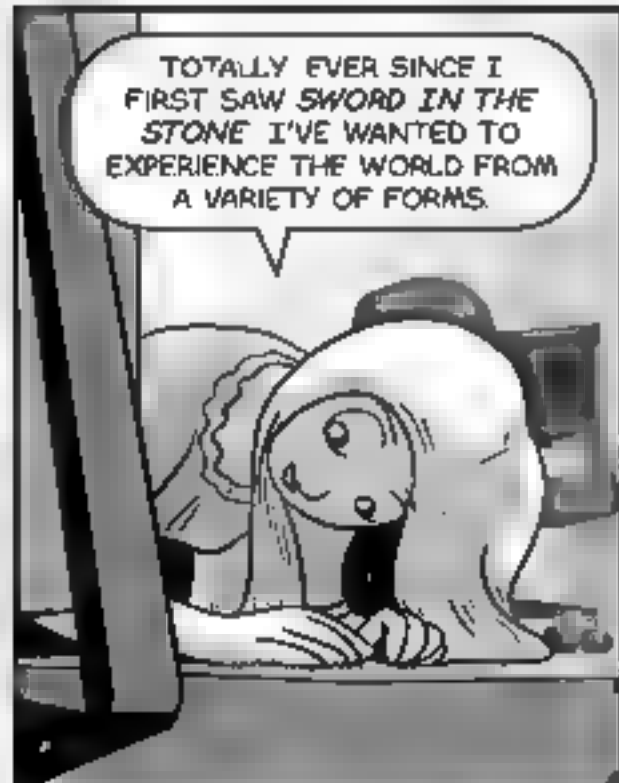
ASSUMING WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHERE THE HELL NANASE FLUNG IT TO AFTER SHE TOOK IT OFF THAT IS.



I HAVE TO SAY I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE PUSHING FOR THE ZAPPY SOLUTION.

IT'S NOT THAT WEIRD. I'VE ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST IN TRANSFORMATION.

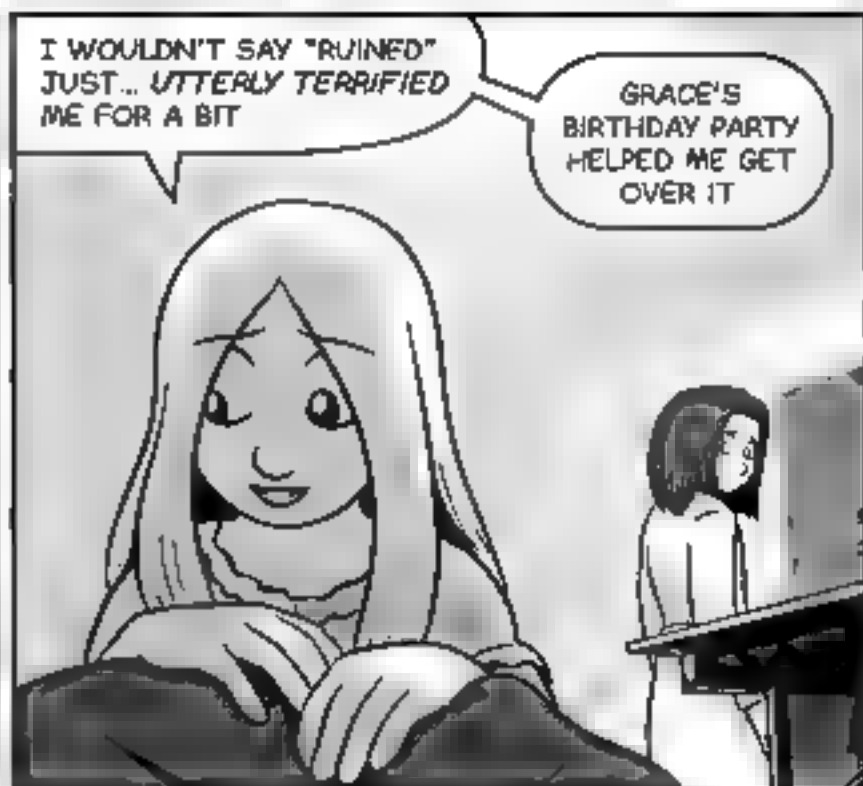
YOU HAVE?



TOTALLY EVER SINCE I FIRST SAW SWORD IN THE STONE I'VE WANTED TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD FROM A VARIETY OF FORMS.



AND I RUINED THAT FOR YOU WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY TURNED YOU INTO A CATGIRL.



I WOULDN'T SAY "RUINED" JUST... UTTERLY TERRIFIED ME FOR A BIT.

GRACE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY HELPED ME GET OVER IT.



FOUND IT!



MAYBE I SHOULD TEST IT FIRST.

HUH?

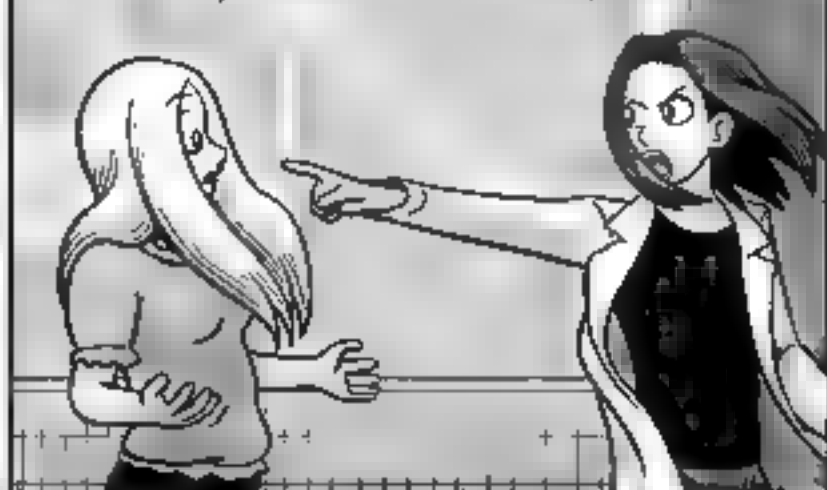
I'M PERFECTLY
OKAY WITH
TESTING IT
YOU DON'T
NEED TO--

THIS IS THE ONE BIT OF
MAD SCIENCE I HAVE THAT
I DON'T TRUST RIGHT
NOW, AND WE ARE NOT
GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE
ANOTHER INCIDENT!



WHAT? TEDD
THIS IS NOTHING
LIKE THAT! EVEN IF
IT DOES DO WHAT
IT DID BEFORE--

STAY HERE!
I'M TESTING THIS
BAD BOY WHILE
UNDER STRICT
QUARANTINE!



TEDD--

PAY NO
ATTENTION TO
THE MAN BEHIND
THE CURTAIN!



I'M
ABOUT TO
TRY IT!

IF I SHRIEK
IN WARNING, TAKE
COVER IN THE BEAN
BAG CHAIR!

~SIGH~

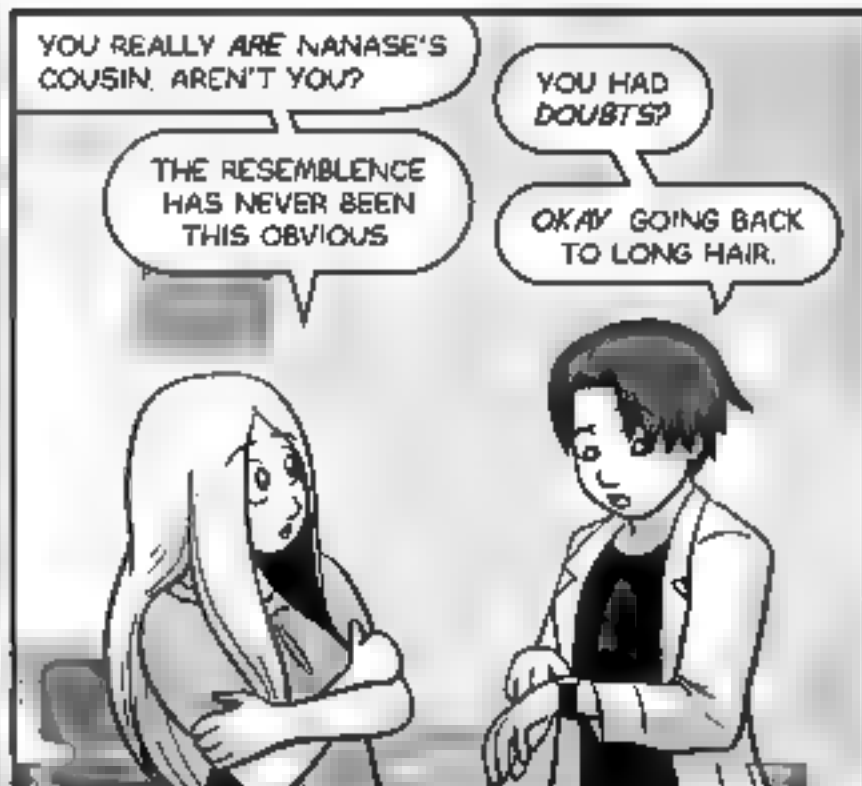


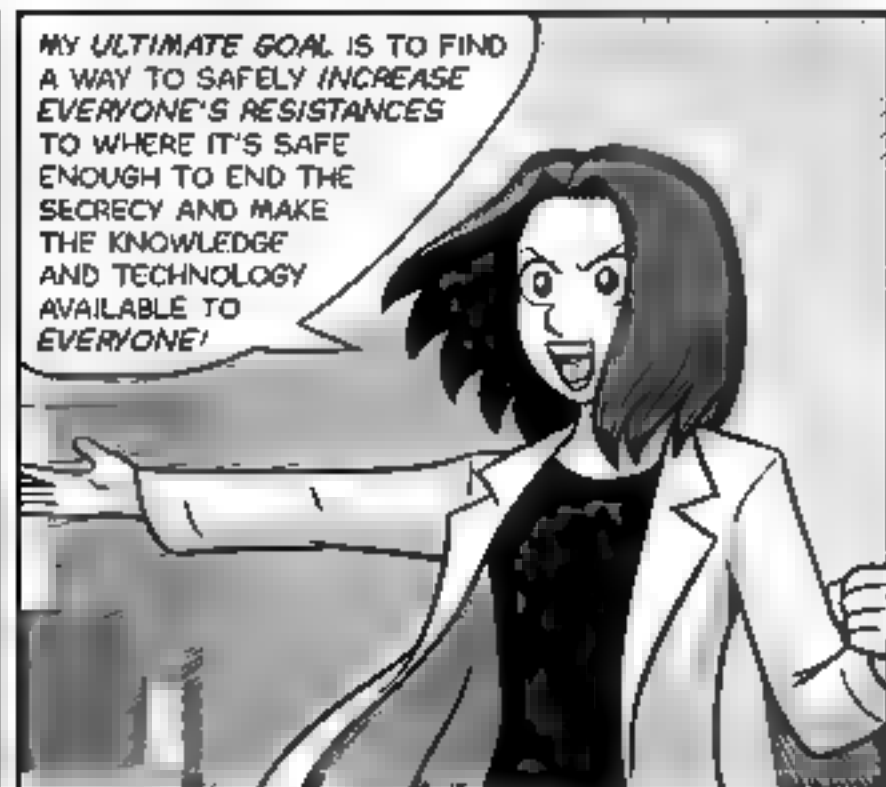
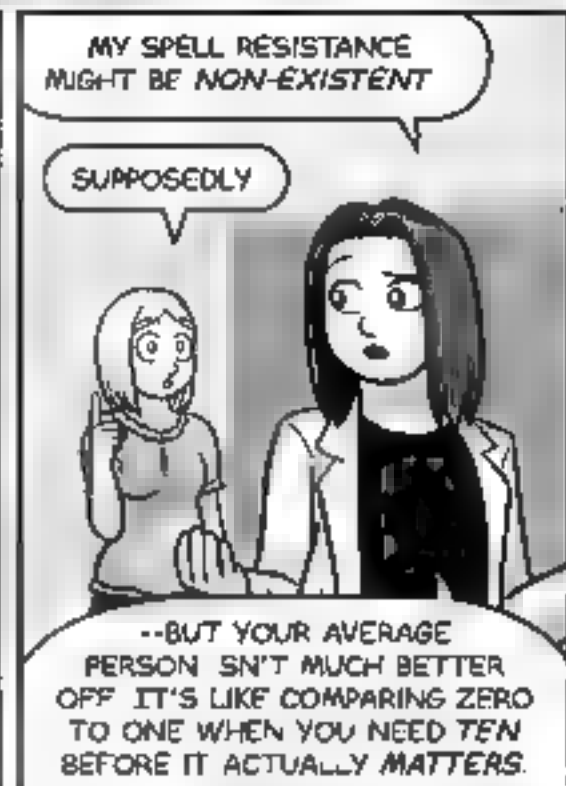
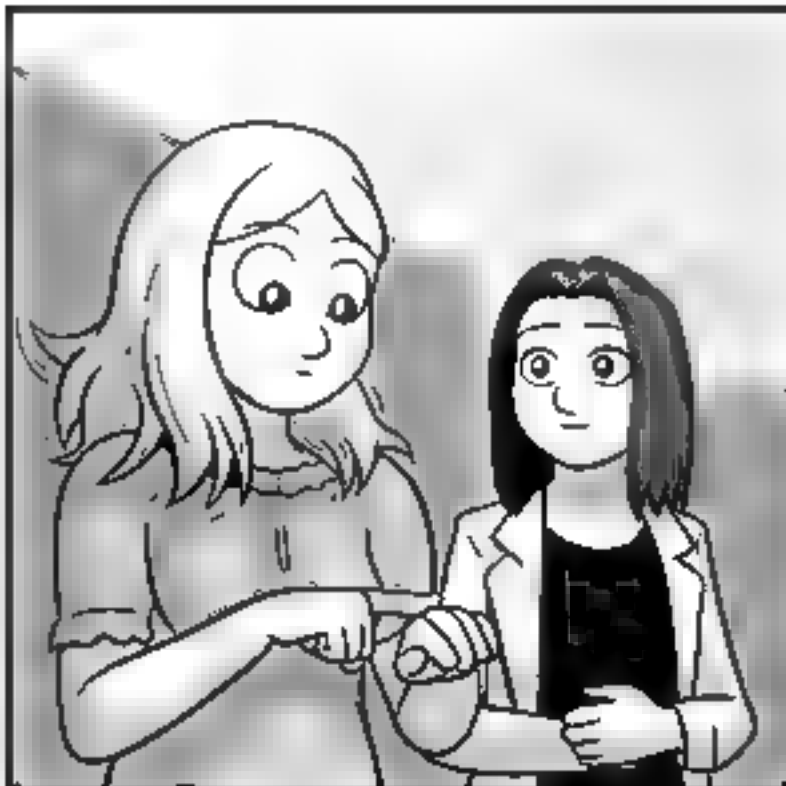
OKAY I THINK IT
WORKED PROPERLY MY
HAIR SEEMS TO BE..

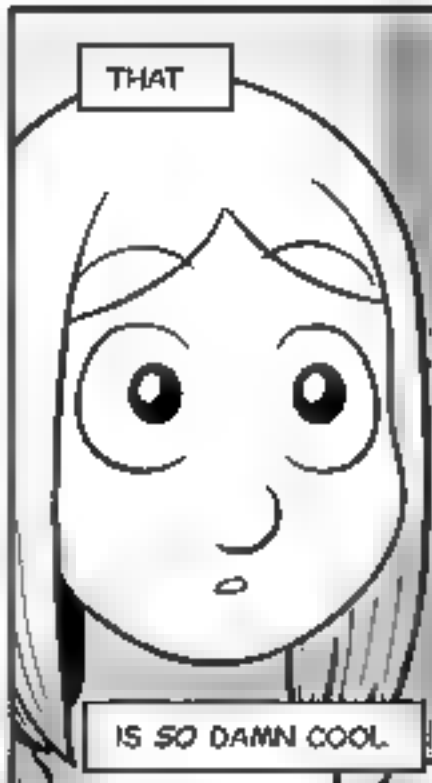


WHAT? OH
CRAP DID
IT START
GROWING?









And so.



Many years ago.



Har - The end



DON'T WORRY
THOSE SCORES
ARE USUALLY
ENOUGH.

I'M NOT WORRIED I KIND
OF WISH I WAS, REALLY
I'M NOT FEELING ALL
THAT MOTIVATED BEYOND
DOING A GOOD JOB.

ELLIOT, OUR CUSTOMERS
SPEND THEIR WEEKS HARD AT WORK
WHILE PUTTING UP WITH ALL THE
FRUSTRATIONS THE WORLD CAN
THROW AT THEM.

RENTING A MOVIE 'SN'T JUST
ABOUT WATCHING A MOVIE IT'S
ABOUT UNWINDING AND BUILDING
ONE'S SELF BACK UP AGAIN.

BY HELPING
PEOPLE RENT WISELY
YOU ARE HELPING
PROTECT THE VERY
CORE OF THEIR
WELL-BEING.

BY GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M
GOING TO DO THE BEST JOB I
CAN! THANKS, SUSAN!

NO
PROBLEM.

WOW THAT GUY'S
LIKE A MISGUIDED
HENCHMAN FOR A
CHARISMATIC SUPER
VILLAIN WAITING
TO HAPPEN.

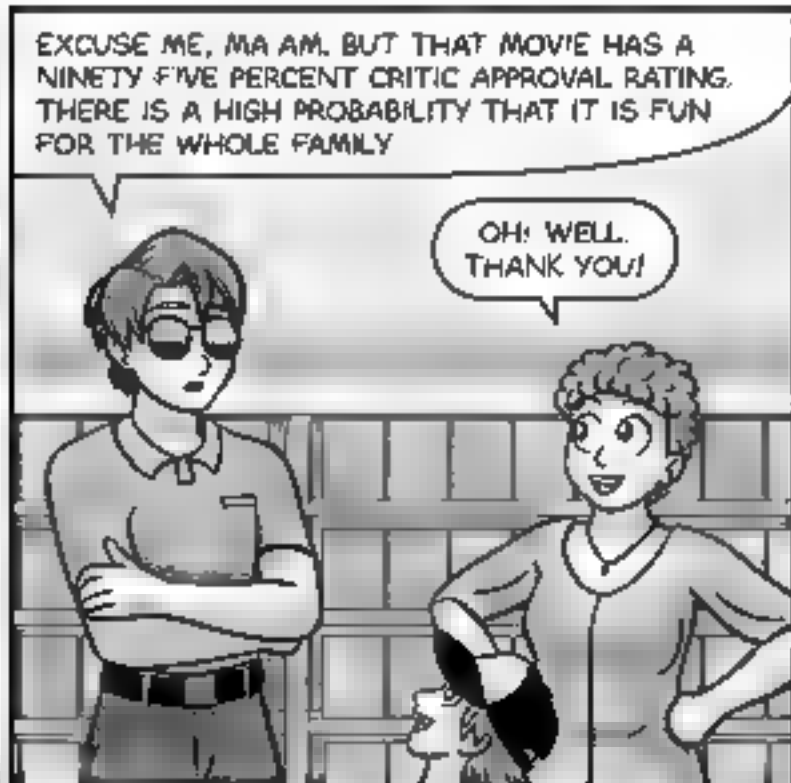
DIBS.

..DAMMIT



BUT I WANNA RENT THAT ONE!

I KNOW BUT WE WE NEED SOMETHING THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY.



EXCUSE ME, MA AM. BUT THAT MOVIE HAS A NINETY FIVE PERCENT CRITIC APPROVAL RATING. THERE IS A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT IT IS FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

OH! WELL. THANK YOU!



SIXTY FOUR PERCENT ONE CRITIC IS QUOTED AS SAYING "RAUNCHY BEYOND REASON" AND ANOTHER CLAIMS IT'S "STUPID FUN."

THAT'S THE SORT OF FUN I'M LOOKING FOR!



WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT BOTH MOVIES FEATURE SAMURAI DINOSAURS, THIS ONE'S APPROVAL RATING IS THREE TIMES THAT OF THE MUSICAL

HM...



...FIFTY-TWO PERCENT I DOUBT IT'S GREAT, BUT IF YOU REALLY LIKE AMAZON WARRIOR PRINCESSES...

HELLS YEAH I DO!



ELLIOT WHY ARE YOU WEARING SUNGLASSES?

WHY AM I WHAT? OH! HEH. FORGOT TO TAKE THEM OFF

SO HOW'S HERO BOY
WORKING OUT?

A RENTAL-
BEAST!

PRETTY WELL. I
MIGHT HAVE CREATED
A MONSTER, BUT A
GOOD KIND.

SO CATALINA I HAVE
TO WORK FRIDAY BUT
I HAVE SATURDAY OFF
DO YOU STILL WANT
TO SEE THAT MOVIE
WITH THE ROBOTS?

OH, UH. SORRY
BUT I'M... SORTA
SEEING IT WITH
SOMEONE ELSE

OH. WELL
THERE'S NO NEED
TO APOLOGIZE ANY
BODY I KNOW?

NO WELL,
MAYBE. I DON'T
KNOW I DOUBT IT,
BUT IT'S A SMALL
WORLD AND ALL.

DO THEY
HAVE A
NAME?

NO.

NO? WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN--

WAIT ARE YOU...
BLUSHING?

WHAT? NO! IT'S
JUST MY FRECKLES!
THE SUN'S BEING A
JACKASS. YEAH.

..YOU
HAVE A
DATE

SSSHH!



I DON'T CARE WHO KNOWS
I'M GAY HERE I'LL PROVE IT

YOU DON'T--



I'M GAY!

NEATO!



BUT MY NEW FRIEND
DOES. I DON'T WANT PEOPLE
KNOWING IT'S A DATE IF
THEY SEE US TOGETHER.



SHE'S WORRIED
ABOUT HER
PARENTS
FINDING OUT

NO THEY'RE COOL WITH
IT MAJOR LIBERALS. SHE
JUST DOESN'T WANT A
FRIEND OF HERS TO KNOW
FOR SOME REASON, AND



AHHH, DAMMIT! I'M SAYING TOO MUCH.
I'M SUCH A JACKASS WITH SECRETS!

IT'S OKAY I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHO YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT

OH, SHE'S
THAT GIRL I
HELPED SAVE
FROM THE--



MMMPRRPH!

I'MPH JUPH JUNNA
PHTOP ALKING MNOW

SO. CATALINA HAS A DATE.

GOOD GOOD
FOR HER.

I'M HAPPY
FOR HER.

OF COURSE IF THEY
BECOME A COUPLE. I'M
GOING TO BECOME THE
BACKUP PERSON SHE CALLS
WHEN HER GIRLFRIEND
ISN'T AVAILABLE

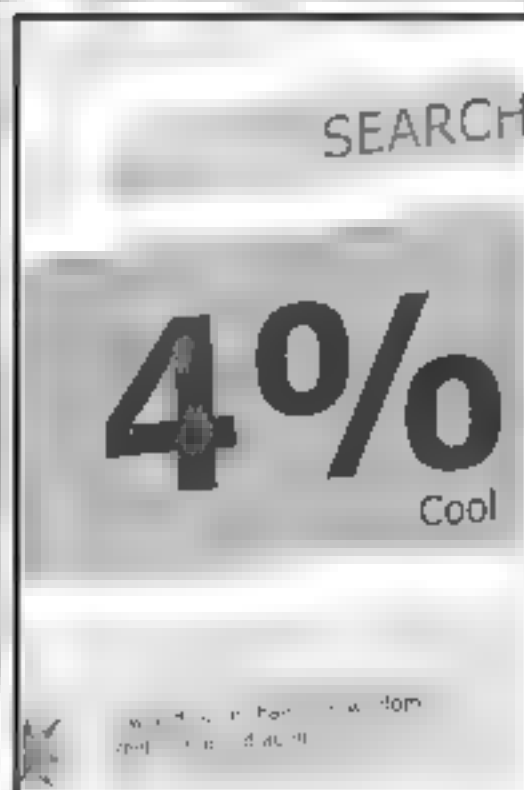
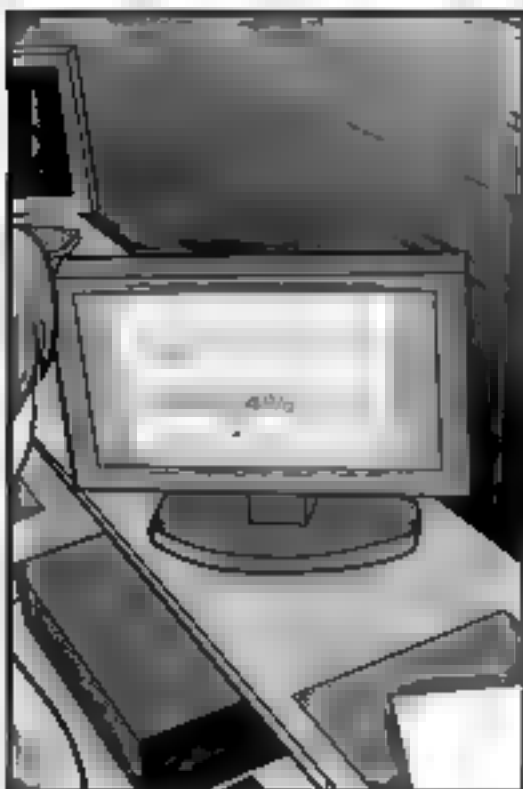
AND I WON'T BE ABLE
HANG OUT WITH THE TWO
OF THEM. BECAUSE I'M
SINGLE AND WOULD JUST
BE A THIRD WHEEL.

IT WILL BE LIKE WHEN
SARAH GOT A BOYFRIEND
ALL OVER AGAIN.

HEY SUSAN? I
WAS WONDERING
ABOUT.









ASS OR NOT HE'S TECHNICALLY CORRECT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GIVE OUR OPINIONS OF MOVIES UNLESS ASKED.



WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST IGNORE A FOUR PERCENT RATING?

IF THEY DON'T ASK? YES. WE HAVE TO GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AND ASSUME THEY HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT THEY'RE DOING.



BESIDES. HE MIGHT ACTUALLY ENJOY IT



ONE CRITIC COMPARED THE MOVIE TO HAVING THEIR TEETH FORCIBLY REMOVED WITH PLIERS

MAYBE HE'S INTO THAT SORT OF THING. WHY DO YOU CARE ANYWAY? THAT GUY'S A SARCASTIC JERK



SO I DON'T LIKE HIM. I DON'T LIKE MOST PEOPLE I STILL CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM.



SEE. IT'S THAT SORT OF MENTALITY THAT MAKES ME THINK YOU'D RISK YOUR LIFE TO SAVE AN ENEMY



EXCUSE ME?

OH, AND YOU WOULDN'T

YOU DON'T LIKE MOST PEOPLE EITHER, BUT YOU'D STILL FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THEM. YOU MAY PUT ON A BETTER GRUMPY-FACE BUT YOU'RE AT LEAST AS BIG A SOFTIE AS I AM.



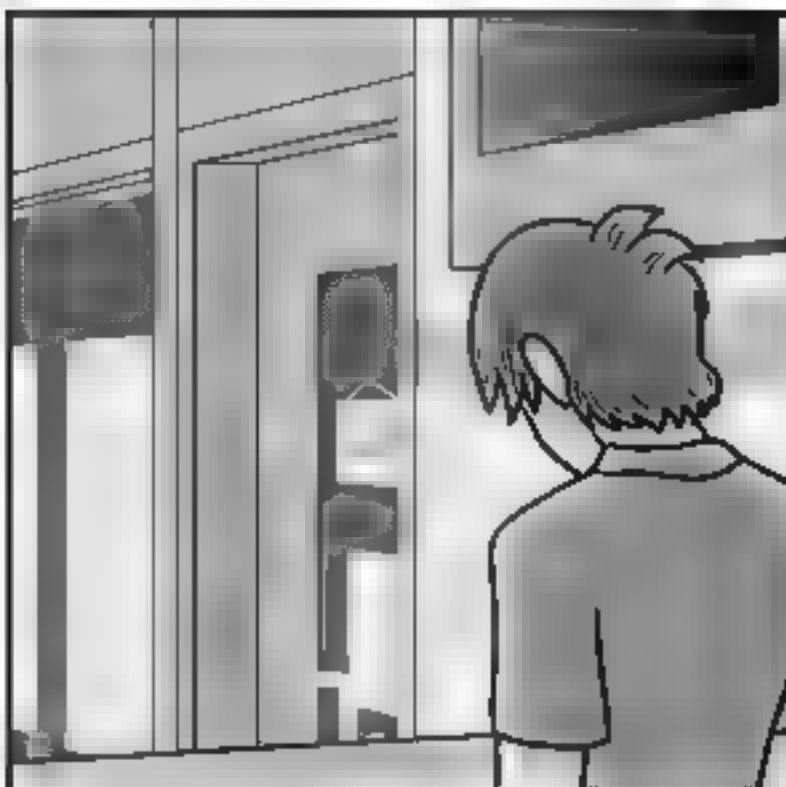
GRUMPY-FACE?!



I UH DID IMPLY IT WAS A GOOD ONE..



Approximately two hours later



OH. COME ON. EVEN IF ELLIOT'S SYMPATHETIC ALL THAT GUY WENT THROUGH WAS A BAD MOVIE

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?



BY HELPING PEOPLE RENT WISELY YOU ARE HELPING PROTECT THE VERY CORE OF THEIR WELL-BEING.

WHOA



DAMMIT



ELLIOT THAT GUY'S CORE WILL BE FINE.

WHAT?



YOU KNOW HIS CORE. THE CENTER OF HIS WELL-BEING HIS ESSENCE HIS MORALE HIS MIDICHLORIAN COUNT... THEY'RE FINE. ALL OF THOSE THINGS WILL BE FINE.

THERE IS NO CORE BREACH IMMINENT

I KNOW THAT

GOOD BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M EVEN SAYING AT THIS POINT



LOOK, I GET WHAT YOU WERE DOING THE OTHER DAY I KNOW THAT IT ISN'T THAT BIG A DEAL IF PEOPLE SEE A BAD MOVIE

HELL, SOME NUT TOLD ME HE WAS RENTING A MOVIE *BECAUSE* IT WAS BAD SOMETHING ABOUT TRACKS AND RIFFS?

ANYWAY, IT DOES SUCK TO WASTE A MOVIE NIGHT ON A BAD MOVIE AND I WANT TO FEEL USEFUL.

THOSE NUMBERS ARE USUALLY ENOUGH. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE WRONG TONIGHT

MAYBE BUT IF I REALLY WANT TO HELP PEOPLE, I SHOULD HAVE MY OWN OPINIONS

AT THE VERY LEAST, I SHOULD WATCH MORE MOVIES.

I CAN'T WATCH THEM ALL, BUT THERE HAVE GOT TO BE SOME CLASSICS I SHOULD WATCH AND I SHOULD PROBABLY KEEP UP ON THE NEWER STUFF..

AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO BEGIN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH SOME MOVIES TOMORROW?



I CAN THINK OF SOME MOVIES YOU SHOULD SEE AND I'VE GOT A BIG SCREEN TV AND POPCORN...

THAT'D BE GREAT! WE SHOULD SEE IF SARAH WANTS TO JOIN JS. TOO.



SARAH HAS SOME SORT OF LAB ASSISTANT PLANS WITH TEDD FOR TOMORROW

REALLY? HUH. SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT. I GUESS THAT RULES OUT INVITING HIM, TOO. AND ELLEN'S DOING STUFF WITH NANASE



I THINK EVERYONE ELSE IS BUSY

I GUESS IT'LL JUST BE US. THEN. HEY, IS IT WEIRD THAT WE BASICALLY HAVE THE SAME WORK SCHEDULE?



I'M OVERLAPPING HIS SCHEDULE WITH YOURS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE YOU VOUCHED FOR HIM, YOU CAN BABYSIT HIM.



IT'S NOT-NOT WEIRD. ANYWAY I'LL PICK OUT SOME MOVIES, AND WE CAN START AROUND NOON?

SOUNDS GOOD! WE SHOULD GET SOME LUNCH, TOO



SURE WHATEVER.

I'M NOT SPENDING MY DAY OFF ALONE!

YES!



THE MODERN FORMAT
CRUELLY RESTRICTS PEOPLE
TO CARDS THAT HAVE BEEN
PRINTED OR REPRINTED WITHIN
THE PAST TWO YEARS!



WHICH KEEPS
THE DECK BUILDING
ENVIRONMENT FRESH
BALANCED AND
INTERESTING



AND THE SEALED FORMAT
ALWAYS USES PACKS FROM THE
MOST RECENT SET, REGARDLESS
OF HOW COOL SOME OF THE
OLDER SETS WERE!



ENSURING THERE
ARE ENOUGH PACKS
AND KEEPING THE
ENTRY FEES BELOW
THE TRIPLE DIGITS.



SPARE ME YOUR LOGIC!
THE OLDE SCHOOL FORMAT
IS CLEARLY THE BEST



IT ALLOWS
CARDS FROM
EVERY SET

MEANING THERE ARE
TONS OF BROKEN CARD
COMBOS THAT USE A
COMBINATION OF OLD
AND NEW CARDS.



AWESOME COMBOS ARE
HALF THE FUN! BESIDES,
BROKEN COMBOS BALANCE
EACH OTHER OUT!



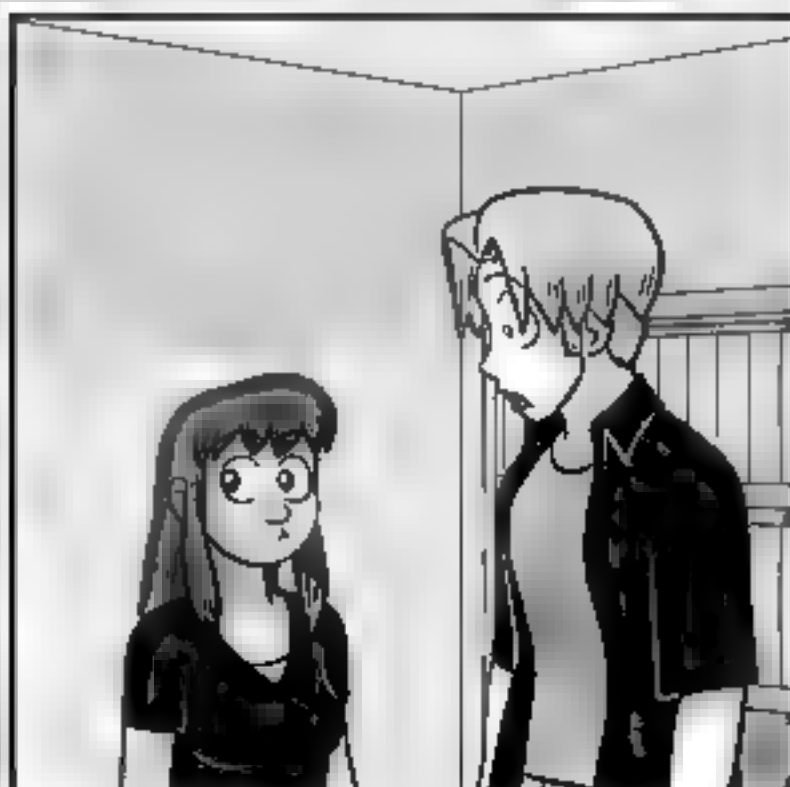
YOU THERE
RANDOM WOMAN
WITH A CLIPBOARD!
SURELY YOU AGREE?

I'M SORRY
I COMPLETELY
ZONED OUT



YOU GUYS
WERE SAYING
WORDS?

Some time and several entry fee payments later



DID TIME
STOP?

IS THAT
WHAT
HAPPENED?

**SHE'S A
WITCH!**

QUIET YOU, GRACE.
HOW HAVE YOU NOT
SEEN *STAR WARS*?

MY LIFE EXPERIENCE
HAS BEEN DIFFERENT
FROM YOURS

AH
A-RIGHT

STILL,
YOU'VE GOT
TO SEE THEM!

WHY? THEY'RE
JUST MOVIES.

MOVIES THAT HAVE HAD A HUGE
IMPACT ON CULTURE AND SOCIETY! THEY
GET REFERENCED AND QUOTED ALL THE
TIME. YOU'VE PROBABLY QUOTED THEM
WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT!

OH, WELL,
NO BIGGIE
I'LL JUST
WATCH THEM
SOMETIME

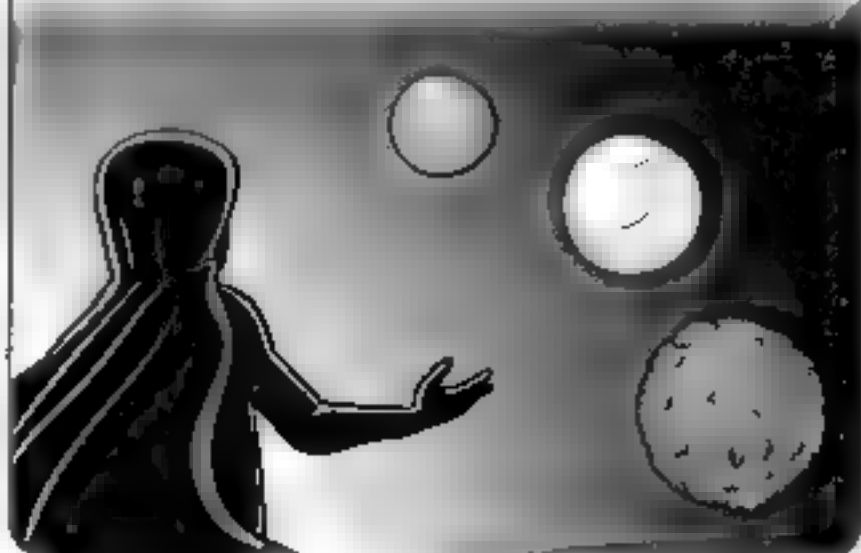
I WISH IT
WERE THAT
SIMPLE.
HANG ON
A SEC

TEDD? IT'S JUSTIN. DO
YOU HAVE THE LIMITED
EDITION NON-SPECIAL
EDITION DVDS OF THE
LASER DISC EDITION OF
STAR WARS?

WHAT? OH
NO I HAVE
THE SPE

NOOOO

A long time ago, the being known as The Lucas created *The Star Wars*. The Lucas did not have the wealth or power to create what he truly wanted, but his work was beloved nonetheless.



Many cycles later, The Lucas had gained much wealth, and finally found the power needed to realize his vision.

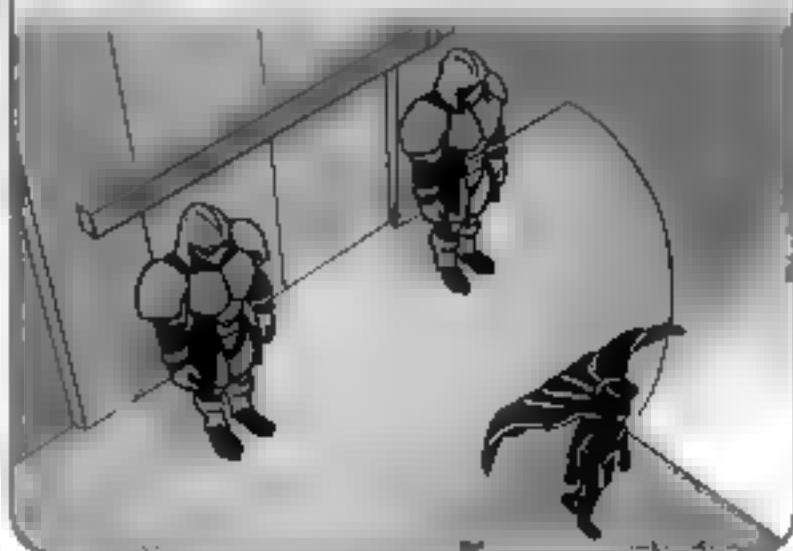


The Lucas used that power to warp *The Star Wars*. He believed he was making them more special than ever before.

Many did not agree. They felt The Lucas had damaged characterization and pacing while creating plot holes and tonal inconsistencies that did not previously exist.



The Lucas ignored the nonbelievers. Believing the warped *Star Wars* to be the truest version, The Lucas locked away the un-warped originals. They are difficult to find to this day.



THANKS FOR THE SUMMARY JIMMY

You're welcome



THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD SEE THE THEATRICAL VERSIONS FIRST IF YOU START WITH THE "SPECIAL" EDITIONS, THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF STUFF THAT COULD KEEP YOU FROM ENJOYING IT AS MUCH AS WE DID WHEN WE FIRST SAW IT



GIVEN THAT I'M EIGHTEEN, THAT'S PROBABLY GOING TO HAPPEN ANYWAY



..YOU TOTALLY WOULD HAVE PHRASED THAT DIFFERENTLY IF YOU'D SEEN *EMPIRE*

UNFORTUNATELY I DON'T HAVE THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS. EITHER. MAYBE WE CAN RENT



MY RENTAL SHOP DOESN'T HAVE THEM, AND NO ONE ELSE HAS THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS, I PROMISE YOU THAT!

YOU YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS.



MY SHOP DOESN'T I HAVE MULTIPLE COPIES OF EVERY VERSION EVER MADE INCLUDING THE COVETED LASER DISC VERSION!



YOU MAY BORROW BOTH THE LASER DISCS AND A PLAYER TO VIEW THEM ON IF AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THIS TOURNAMENT, YOU BEAT ME IN A MAGICKAL CARDS DUEL!



AN OLDE SCHOOL DUEL



BUT I ONLY HAVE A MODERN DECK

THAT IS MY DEAL. PRAY I DON'T ALTER IT ANY FURTHER

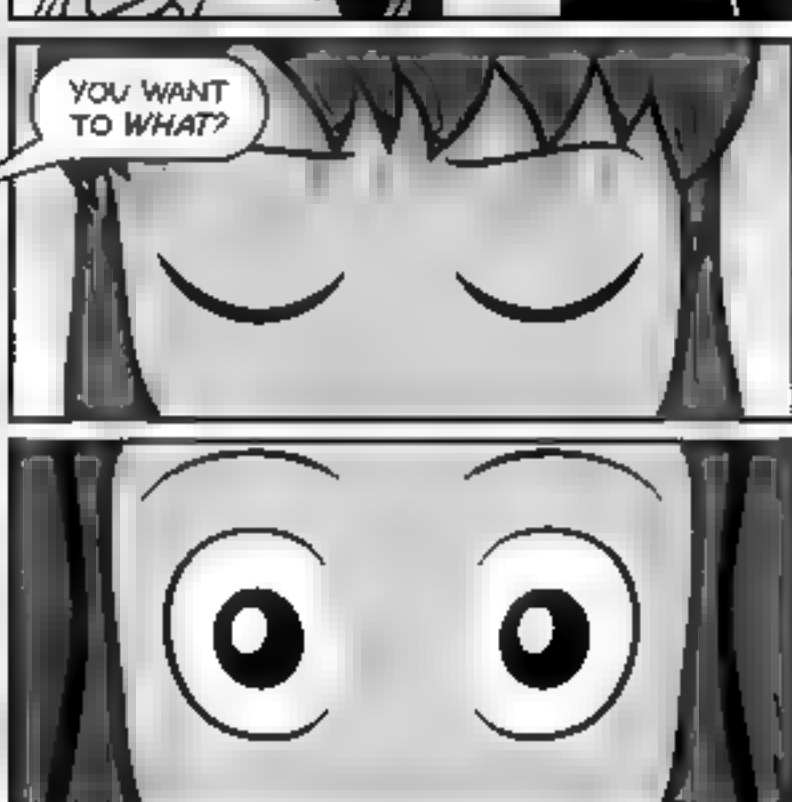


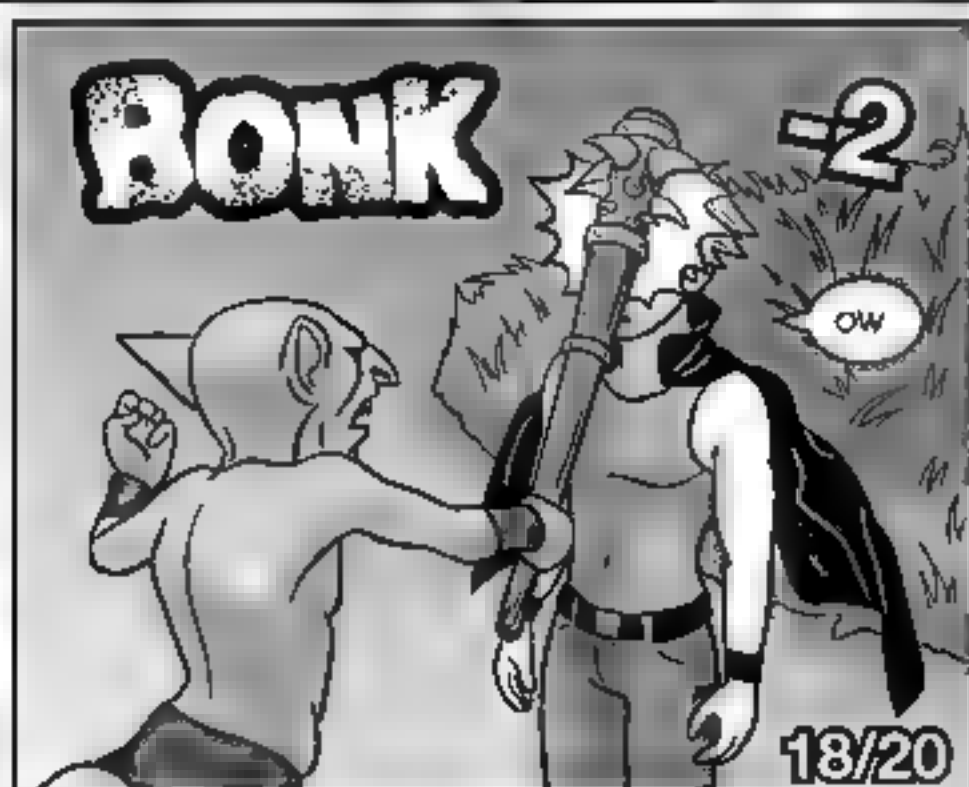
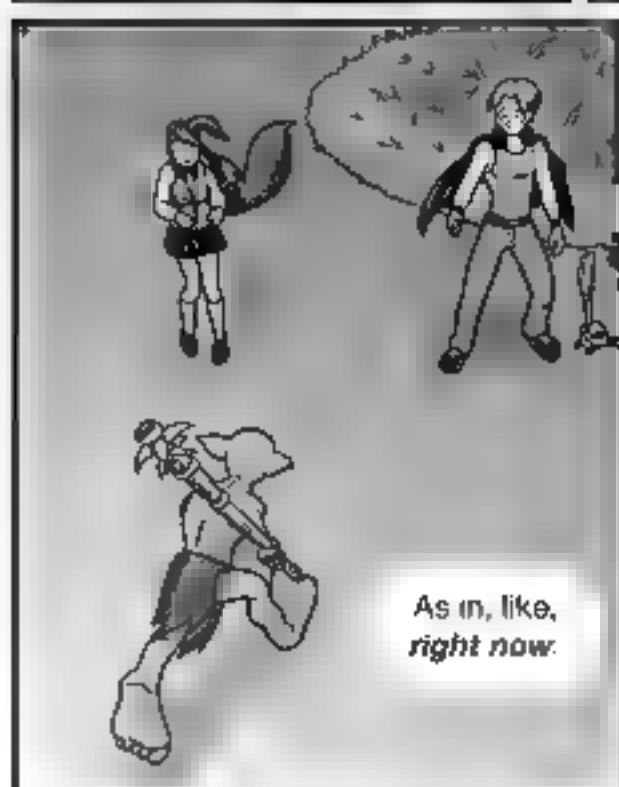
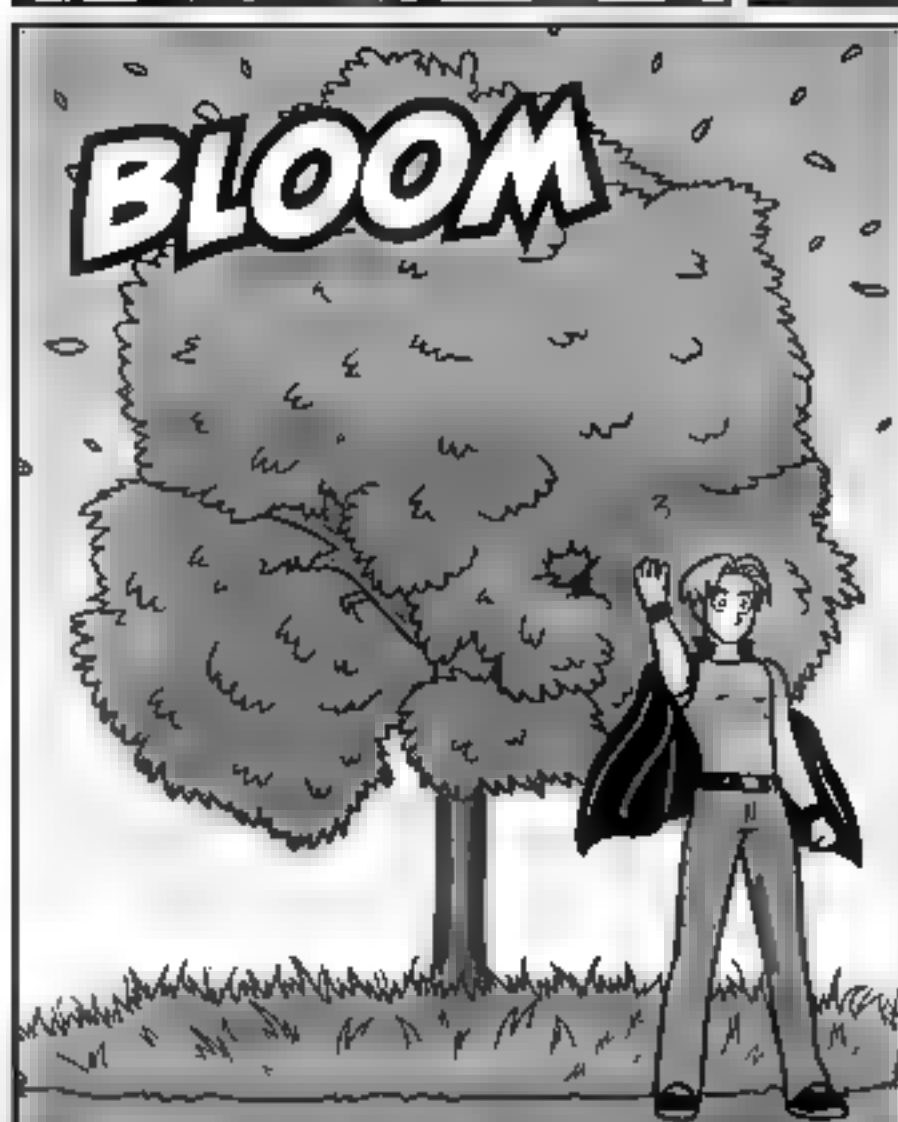
"FURTHER"? WHEN DID HE ALTER IT A FIRST TIME?



YOU'RE ON, TENSAIDED!









I CAST **FIERY SACRIFICE**,
SACRIFICING MY GOBLIN TO
GAIN THREE ENERGY

FWOOSH

AND I USE THAT
ENERGY TO SUMMON
GNOMISH INVENTOR!



WHICH I
THEN IMMEDIATELY
SACRIFICE..

FWOOSH

TO ACTIVATE ITS ABILITY
ALLOWING ME TO PLAY THE
FOUR-ENERGY COST
LIBRARY OF SCHEMATICS!



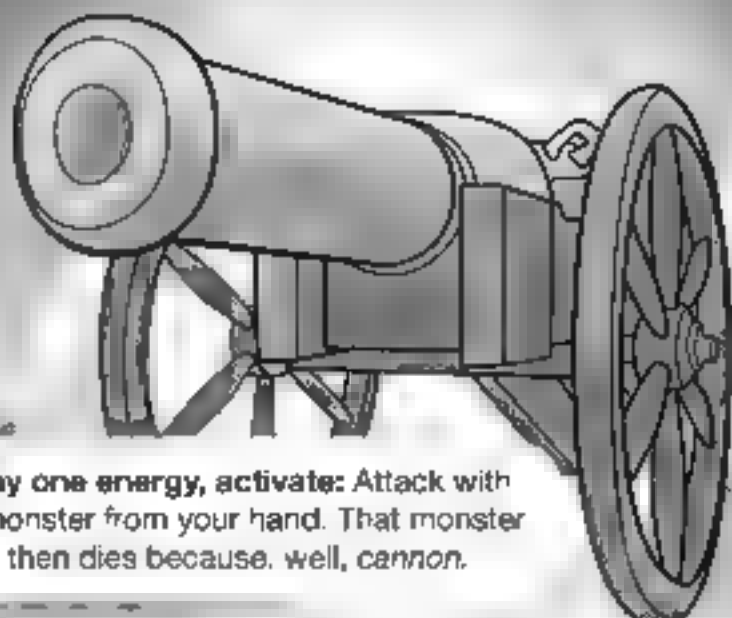
WHICH I
THEN IMMEDIATELY
SACRIFICE

FWOOSH

TO ACTIVATE *ITS* ABILITY,
ALLOWING ME TO SEARCH MY
DECK AND PLAY ANY EQUAL OR
LESSER VALUE DEVICE FOR
FREE, AND I CHOOSE



Gargantuan Cannon!



Pay one energy, activate: Attack with
a monster from your hand. That monster
then dies because, well, cannon.

WHICH YOU
THEN IMMEDIATELY
SACRIFICE?

NO

DAMN.



I GUESS
THAT ENDS
YOUR TURN.
WHAT WITH
NO LAND
LEFT

OH, BUT IT DOESN'T
PERHAPS YOU'RE
FAMILIAR WITH MY
LITTLE FRIEND
HERE?

No cost Immediately
sacrifice to gain one energy

CRUNCH

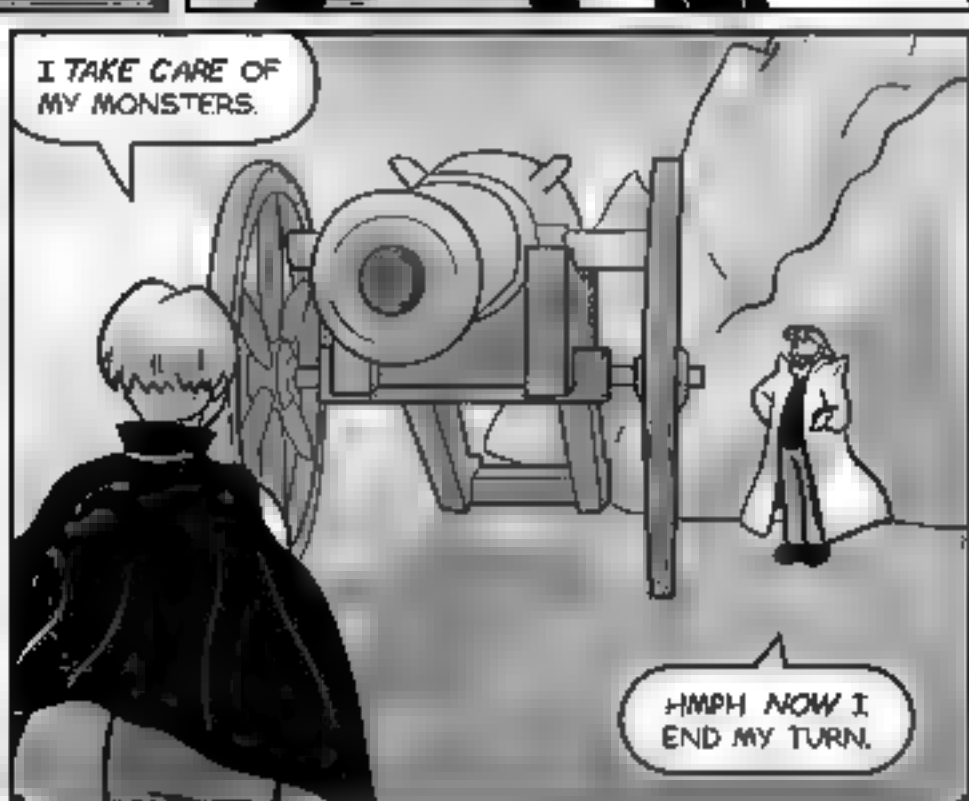
Literary Dragon

7 ATTACK / 7 HEALTH

Fires When Literary Dragon dies, it
deals 3 damage to every monster

I ACTIVATE
ENERGY BIRD TO
CAST SCURRY!

TWEEET!



GOOD. BECAUSE
NOW IT'S MY
TURN TO PLAY A
HEAVY HITTER.

I PLAY A
FOURTH TREE
THEN ACTIVATE
ALL MY TREES...

AND ALL MY
MONSTERS FOR
SIX ENERGY TO
SUMMON.

STOMPALOPE!

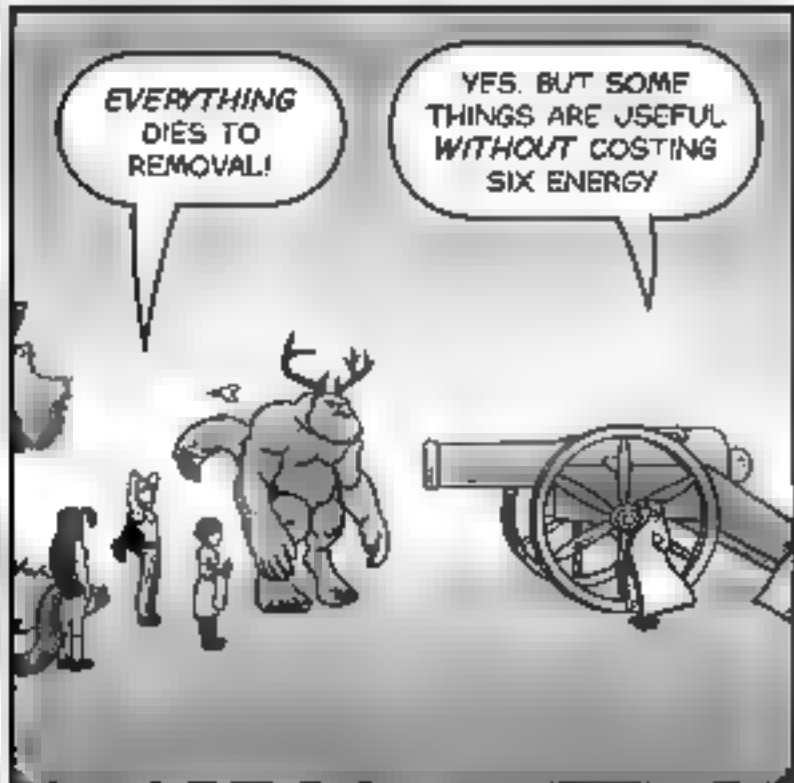
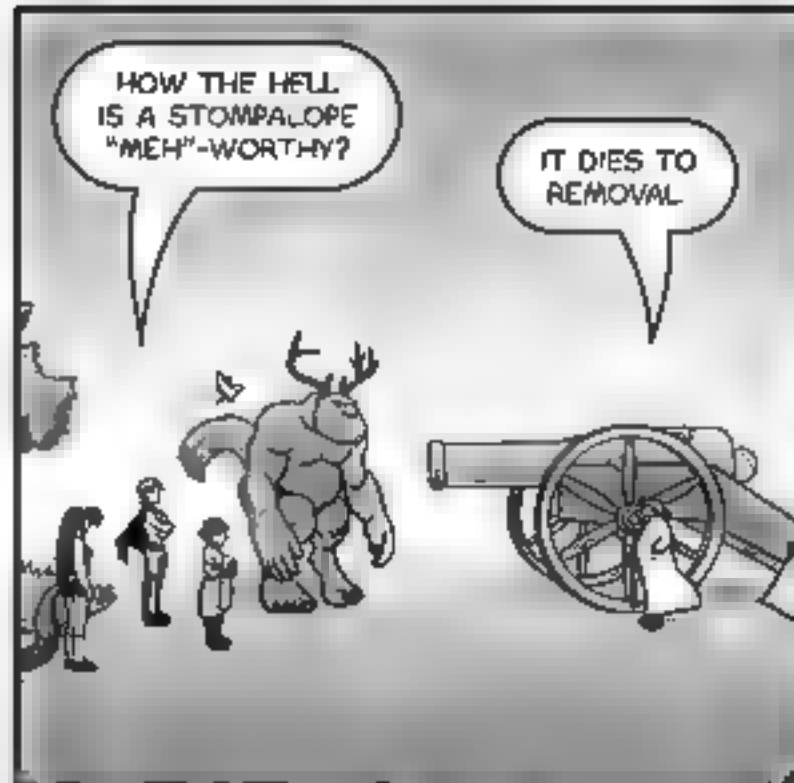
**8 ATTACK
8 HEALTH**

Stomping. The
summoning of the Stompalope
cannot be stopped.

SERIOUSLY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
"SERIOUSLY"? IT'S A
THIRD TURN EIGHT-
EIGHT STOMPER!

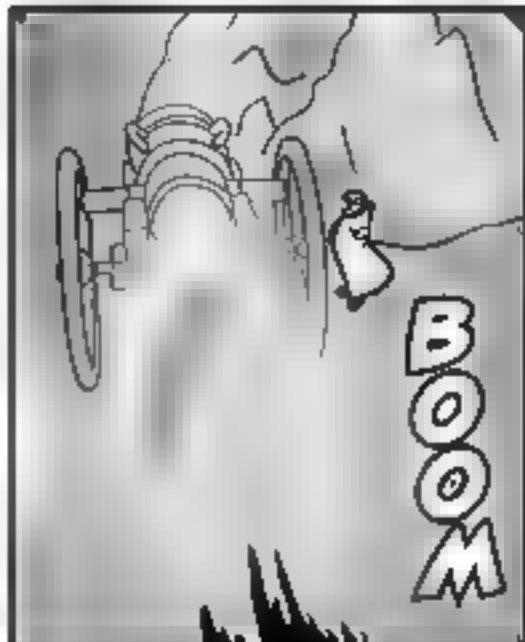
MEH.



YOU KNOW WHAT? THE
BEST ARGUMENT IS ACTION.
SO GO. YOUR TURN.



I COULDN'T AGREE MORE
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT'S
REALLY A SHAME YOU
ACTIVATED YOUR BIRD THUS
LEAVING YOU WITH NO FLYING
MONSTERS TO BLOCK



Skreevos

10 Attack / 10 Health

Flies. When the Skreevos's wrath
befalls a player (AKA damaging them),
that player discards their entire hand



WELL. F

THWACK

THWUMP

THWUMP

BOOM

CRUNCH

-10

1/20

JUSTIN!

SON OF A-- GRACE
I'M FINE IT'S JUST
A CARD GAME

OH. RIGHT
SORRY I IMAGINED
IT FELL ON YOU

WONDERFUL.



LISTEN. YOU CAN BORROW
THE LASERDISCS EITHER WAY
I JUST WANTED TO KICK
JUSTIN'S ASS IN A CARD
GAME AND I'VE DONE THAT

THAT'S NICE
OF YOU!
SORT OF

I HAVEN'T
LOST YET

BUT YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT
TO CONSIDER JUST DOING
THE MACHETE ORDER THING
AND SHOW HER THE MOVIES
IN THE ORDER OF EPISODE IV
V II, III, THEN VI

WHAT ABOUT
EPISODE ONE?

WHAT ABOUT
EPISODE ONE?

THE MACHETE ORDER.
I HADN'T THOUGHT
ABOUT THAT THAT MIGHT
ACTUALLY BE A BETTER
CHOICE FOR GRACE..

KNIVES
ARE BETTER
FOR ME?

BUT EVEN SO AND EVEN IF
I HAVE ONLY ONE LIFE LEFT
AND NO CARDS IN MY HAND I
CAN AT LEAST DRAW ONE
LAST CARD AND FINISH THIS
GAME WITH DIGNITY

AND THAT
LAST CARD IS

MWAH HA
HA HA HA
HA HA
HA

HA HA HA HA HA HA

YOU WANT
TO KNOW THE
VALUE OF A
STOMPALOPE?

**UNSTOMPABLE
STOMPEDE!**

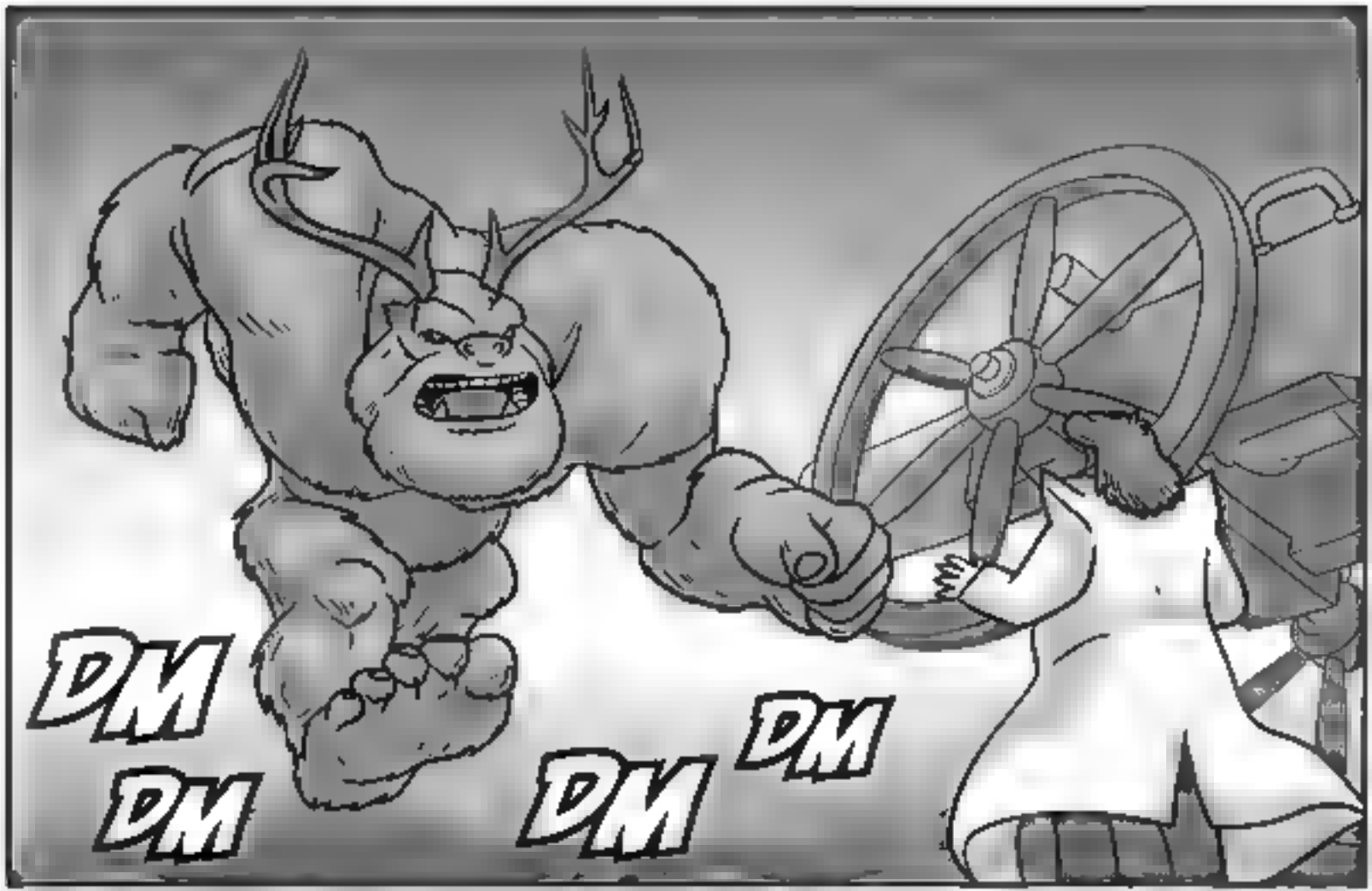
UNTIL END OF TURN,
ALL OF MY MONSTERS
GET AN ATTACK BONUS
EQUAL TO THE ATTACK
OF MY STRONGEST
MONSTER.

THE
EIGHT-EIGHT
STOMPALOPE!

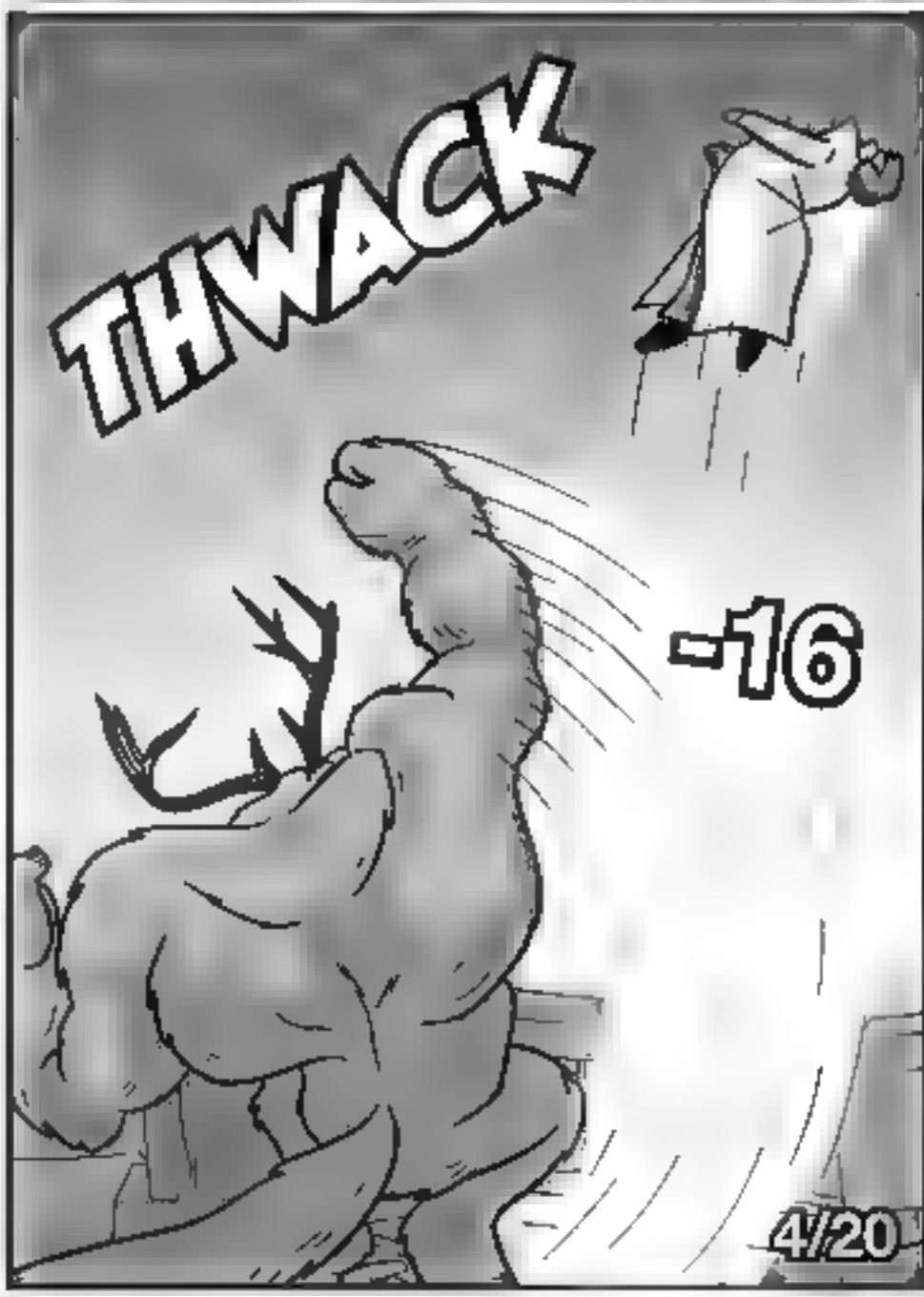
DM

DM

TWEET



DM DM DM DM



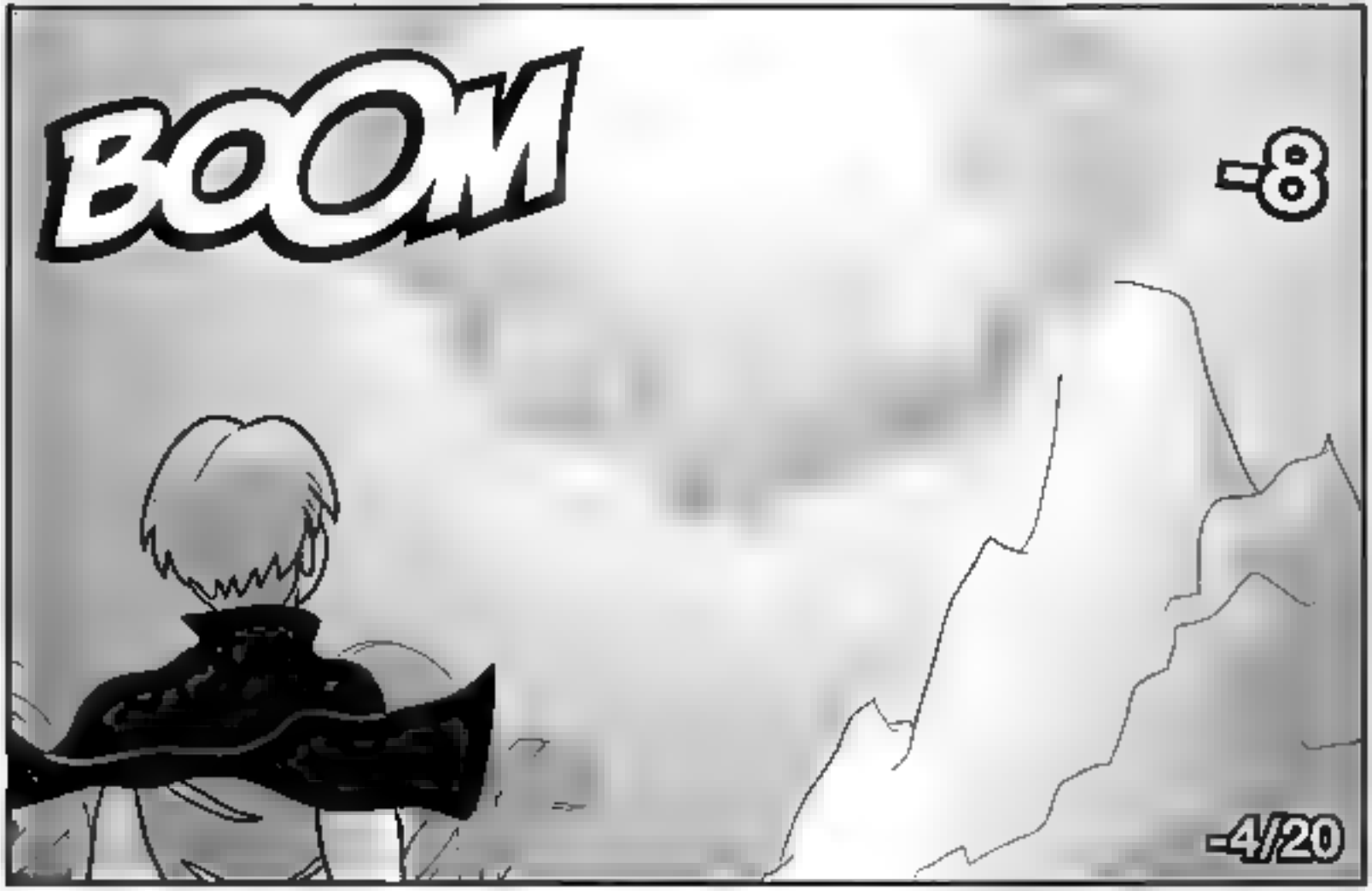
THWACK

-16

4/20



TWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEET!



BOOM

-8

-4/20

WELL. IT JUST GOES TO SHOW
THAT NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL
AND AWESOME ONE'S DECK IS,
THERE IS ALWAYS AN ELEMENT
OF LUCK WITH CARD GAMES.

THOUGH
I MUST
SAY I AM
IMPRESSED.

WHY
THANK
YOU

NOT WITH YOU
WITH HER

ME?
WHAT'D I
DO?

YOU ROLEPLAYED. YOU PAID PERFECT
ATTENTION AND YET YOU PICTURED OUR
GAME AS AN ACTUAL WIZARD'S DUEL SO
VIVIDLY THAT YOU CRIED OUT AFTER
JUSTIN TOOK A BAD HIT

I WOULDN'T
SAY I "CRIED
OUT"

YOU MIGHT HAVE HAD
SOME SORT OF SHELTERED
UPBRINGING BUT THE GEEK
IS STRONG IN YOU

SOME RPG BUDDIES AND I WANT
TO START UP A NEW CAMPAIGN
SOON AND WE'RE SHORT A ROGUE
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN
FILLING THE ROLE?

MAYBE? I NEED
TO KNOW WHAT
ALL THOSE WORDS
MEAN FIRST

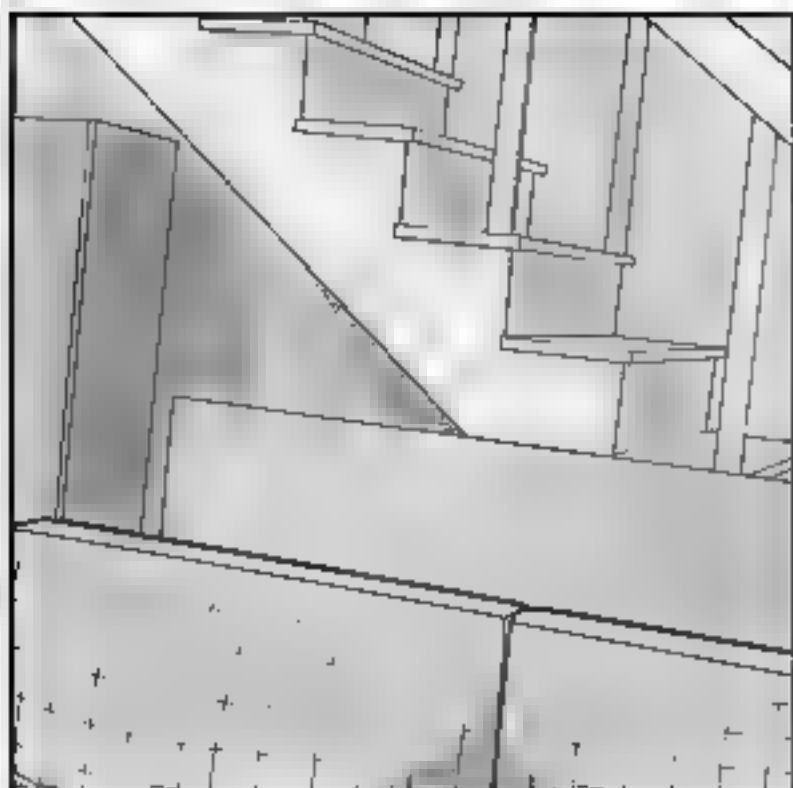
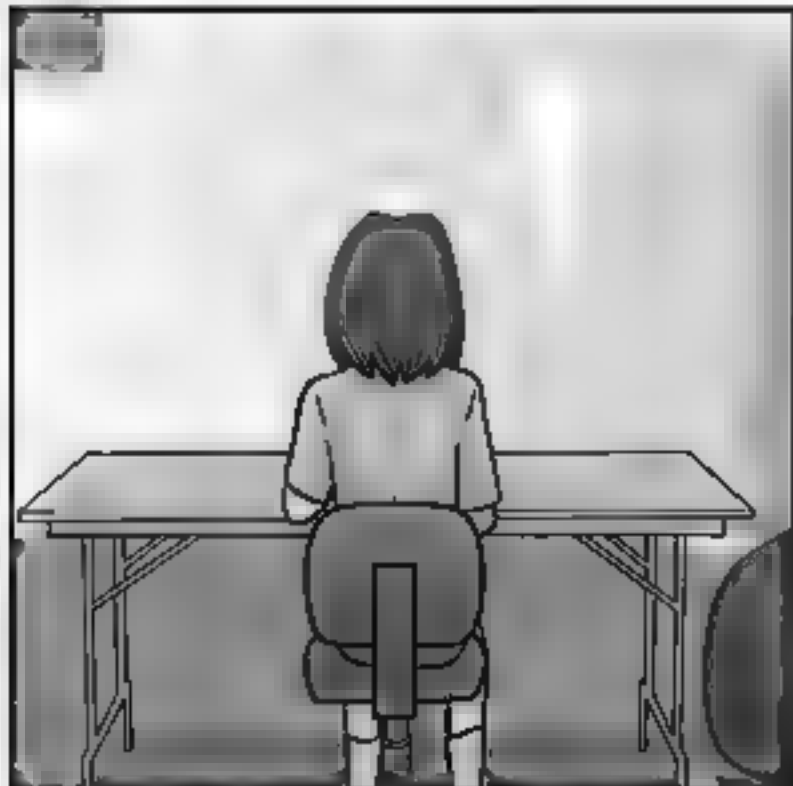
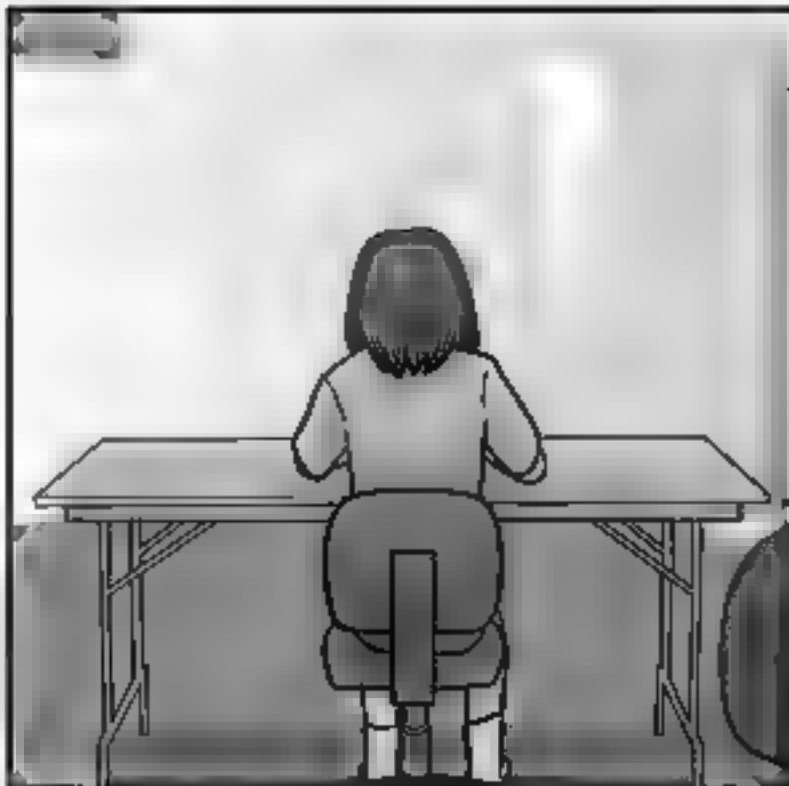
SO VERY VERY
SHELTERED.

Days later, near the start of a movie marathon



Duel Of The Discs - The end

21 x 11



Saturday, June 15, the day after exciting card game action

SO. DO YOU
WANT ME TO
BE FURRY?

ONLY IF YOU WANT
TO BE IT'S ENOUGH
THAT YOU'RE HERE

THAT'S A RELIEF I MEAN,
I LIKE BEING FUZZY BUT
CLOTHES ON TOP OF FUR IS
REDUNDANT ENOUGH WITHOUT
IT ALSO BEING SUMMER.

OF COURSE A
SUMMER COAT
MIGHT NECESSITATE
WEARING SOME
THING TO STAY
MODEST

IS THE WEATHER
ALSO WHY YOU
DON'T HAVE A TAIL
OR ANTENNAE
RIGHT NOW?

EH. NO. AS MUCH
AS I LIKE MY TAILS.
HUMAN FURNITURE
ISN'T MADE WITH
THEM IN MIND.

AND THE ANTENNAE
COME WITH EXTRA
SENSES THAT ARE
KINDA NICE TO BE
ABLE TO TURN OFF

DOESN'T TURNING OFF
SENSES FEEL WEIRD?

A LITTLE BUT I'M USED TO
IT BESIDES. YOU CAN'T TELL
ME YOU'VE NEVER WANTED A
TEMPORARY "OFF" BUTTON
FOR YOUR SENSE OF SMELL

OOH, NOW
THAT SHOULD
BE A WATCH.

SPEAKING OF
WATCHES. YOURS
IS READY

Earlier that week, Wednesday, June 12.



I'M THINKING WE SHOULD BRING ELLIOT IN FOR SOME EXPERIMENTS.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS ENERGY BUILDUPS?



NO I'M NOT SURE WHAT ELSE TO TRY WITH THAT YET FOR NOW I WANT TO EXPERIMENT WITH CLOTHING MORPHS.

I CAN GET THEM WORKING WITH THE WATCHES, BUT NOT THE TF GUN.

DARE I ASK WHY YOU WANT A RANGED VERSION?



GRACE CAN'T GAIN FORMS FROM THE WATCHES. THEY CAN'T TRANSFORM HER AT ALL. ACTUALLY I'M NOT SURE WHY

IN ANY CASE IF I CAN GET CLOTHING MORPHS TO WORK WITH THE TF GUN. IT COULD GIVE HER A WHOLE NEW SET OF ABILITIES.

HUH. BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ELLIOT?



IF I'M GOING TO FIGURE THIS OUT I NEED TO OBSERVE CLOTHING MORPHS, AND I CAN'T JUST USE A MIRROR.

I'D BE UP FOR THAT! MORPHING OUTFITS SOUND COOL.

ASSUMING I GET OUTFIT APPROVAL.



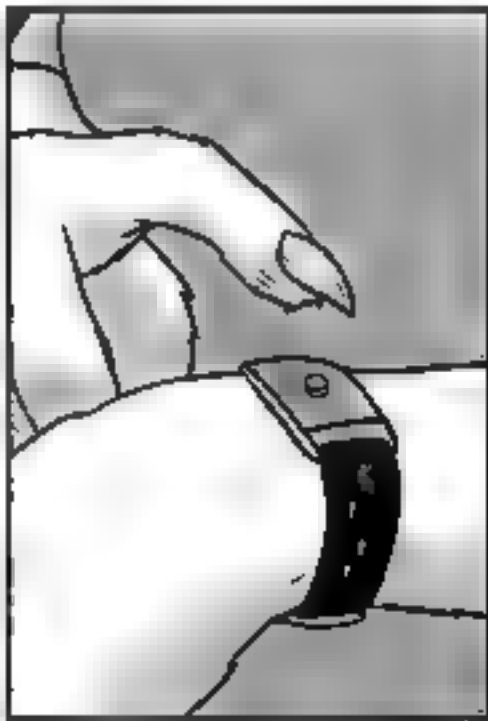
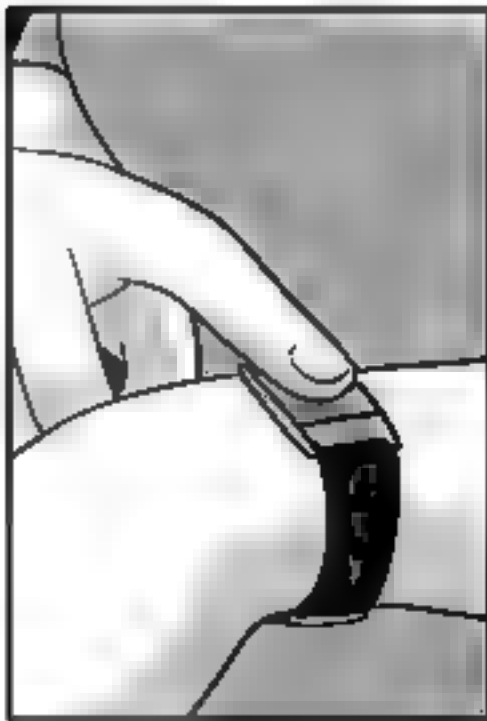
INCLUDING CLOTHING MORPHS THAT ACCOMMODATE PHYSICAL CHANGES AND FURRY FORMS.

..OH.



Back to the present Saturday





ARE YOU
OKAY?

HUH? OH, YEAH.
I WAS HOPING
TO SOUND MORE
BADASS, BUT
WHATEVER.





OH THANK
GOD I'M BACK
TO NORMAL



HEE HEE HEE



I HAVE
MASTERY OF
FELINENESS!

I HATE TO
ASK THIS
A THIRD
TIME,
BUT...



I'M OKAY

I'M SORRY IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE
FLIPPING BETWEEN WORRY AND JOY
AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE
REALLY FEELING. DEEP DOWN.

IN YOUR GUTS.



BOTH. THIS IS COOL AND FUN. IT'S
ALSO WEIRD AND SCARY, BUT I'M
NOT GOING TO LET THAT RUIN IT
FOR ME OR KEEP ME FROM HELPING
TEDD WITH HIS RESEARCH!



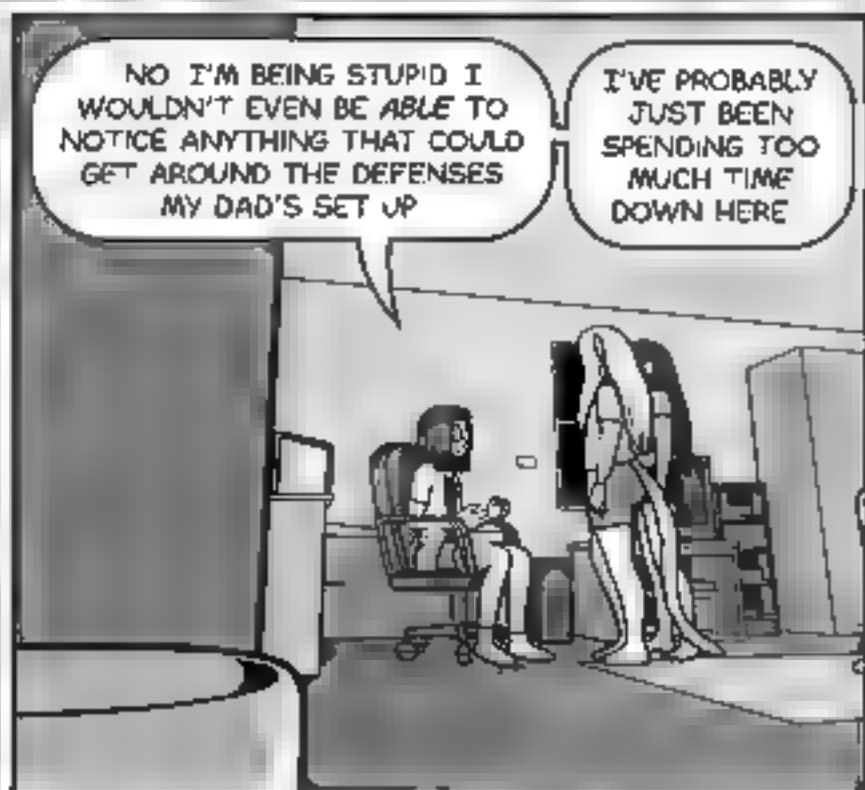
ALTHOUGH I
HAVE TO SAY

WHAT?



CLOTHING ON
TOP OF FUR
JUST DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT

I KNOW
RIGHT?





SO WHAT'S UP?

HOW FURRY?

OH. UH, I WAS WONDERING HOW FURRY I REALLY NEED TO BE FOR THESE "FURRY" EXPERIMENTS.



FUR PASSES AGAINST CLOTHING AND FEELS WEIRD AND SHE CAN'T BE NAKED BECAUSE WE'RE TESTING CLOTHING MORPHS.

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON!



I KNOW I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE SOME ONE BLUSH THROUGH FUR.

I THINK I SEE A LITTLE RED.



W. WELL. AH. NO THE EARS AND TAIL SHOULD HAVE SOME FUR SO THEY DON'T LOOK FREAKY BUT THE REST IS UNNECESSARY I COULD MAKE A FORM LIKE THAT



CAN WE DITCH THE CLAWS, TOO? THEY'D BE COOL IF THEY WERE RETRACTABLE, BUT

RETRACTABLE'S HARD TO DO WITHOUT MAKING YOUR FINGERS MORE PAW-LIKE BUT YEAH. THOSE CAN GO ANYTHING ELSE?



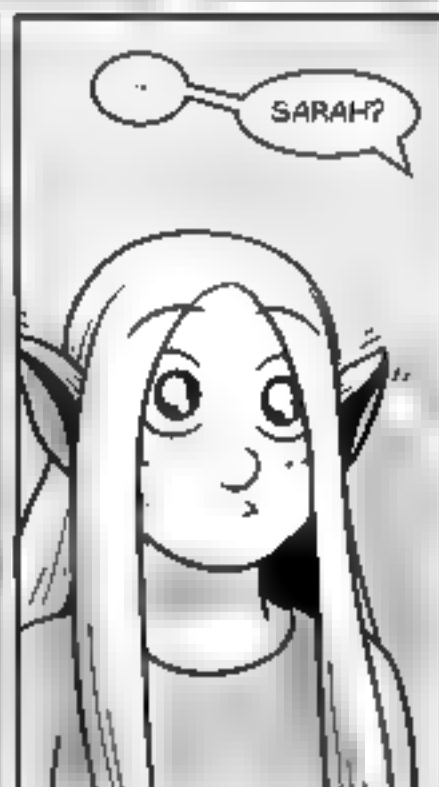
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE TO CHANGE.

SURE THERE IS. LIKE THE EARS AND TAIL DON'T HAVE TO BE CAT-RELATED I CAN PROGRAM JUST ABOUT ANY FORM IMAGINABLE



ANY FORM IMAGINABLE?

SO LONG AS IT'S PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE SURE



SARAH?

Meanwhile, at the land of Susan's house

SO HOW DO YOU
LIKE CITIZEN KANE?

IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
AND IT'S LIKE I
SUDDENLY GET HALF
OF THE JOKES ON
THE SIMPSONS

WE CAN WATCH THE
GODFATHER MOVIES
LATER IF YOU WANT TO
GET THE OTHER HALF
HERE'S YOUR POPCORN.

OH. UH.
THANKS. I
GET MY
OWN
BOWL?

IT'S LESS MESSY THAN
BOTH OF US RUMMAGING
WITH OUR HANDS THROUGH
ONE BIG BOWL.

AND
CHOPSTICKS?

ALSO LESS MESSY THEY
KEEP YOUR HANDS FROM
GETTING COVERED IN GREASE

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
USE THEM.

NO NO I THINK I
LIKE THE IDEA. IT'S--

WHOOOPS.



HERE HOLD
THEM LIKE THIS.

LIKE TH--
WHOOPS.



HOW CAN A MARTIAL
ARTIST BE THIS
UNCOORDINATED?

IF I WAS TRYING
TO PUNCH THE
POPCORN, I COULD
TOTALLY DO IT



OH, JUST GIVE
ME YOUR HAND

BUT I NEED IT
FOR STUFF



KEEP THE BOTTOM CHOPSTICK STATIONARY
AND RESTING ON YOUR RING FINGER AND
GUIDE THE TOP CHOPSTICK WITH YOUR
INDEX AND MIDDLE FINGER.



CLICK
CLICK

HEY I THINK
I'VE GOT IT!



AWESOME I'LL BE
RIGHT BACK AFTER I
WASH MY HANDS.

IT'S A SHAME I'M TOO BIG TO DO ANYTHING REALLY CAT-LIKE WITHOUT BREAKING SOMETHING.

I KNOW THAT FEELING



IS THAT ONE OF THE THINGS WE COULD DO? CHANGE SIZES? HOW SMALL COULD I GET?

I THINK TEDD SAID AROUND EIGHTY PERCENT NORMAL SIZE?



EIGHTY? I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY SMALL. HOW MUCH BIGGER?

I THINK ABOUT TWENTY-SIX PERCENT BIGGER.

IT'S A LOT WHEN YOU CONSIDER HOW THINGS SCALE



I'M SURE THERE'S SOME "SCIENTIFIC" REASON TO TRY OUT BOTH OF THOSE ..

I DOUBT TEDD WOULD NEED MUCH CONVINCING



WE COULD ARGUE THAT WE COULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO GO PAST THOSE LIMITS, WHICH WOULD BE GOOD FOR REASONS!

WHY DID YOU WANT ME HERE INSTEAD OF ELLIOT?



YOU KNOW I COULD PROBABLY CHASE MY TAIL WITHOUT BEING TOO DESTRUCTIVE

SARAH.

GRACE



ELLIOT HAS SO MUCH TRANSFORMATION BAGGAGE THAT I'M NOT SURE IF HE'D APPRECIATE ME BEING EXCITED OR NERVOUS ABOUT IT

I THINK HE'D BE OKAY WITH IT IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S STRANGLED TEDD YET

MAYBE BUT I ALSO DON'T WANT TO CALL ELLIOT BECAUSE I WANT HIM TO CALL ME

I... WHAT? WHY?

BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS UP TO ME TO CALL HIM! IT DIDN'T BUG ME WHEN WE WERE JUST FRIENDS. BUT I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT IF I NEVER CALLED HIM, WE'D JUST NEVER GO OUT!

WE ALWAYS DO WHAT EVER I WANT TO DO EAT WHEREVER I WANT TO EAT... EVEN WHEN HE DOES COME UP WITH SOMETHING IT'S AFTER I'VE ASKED HIM TO

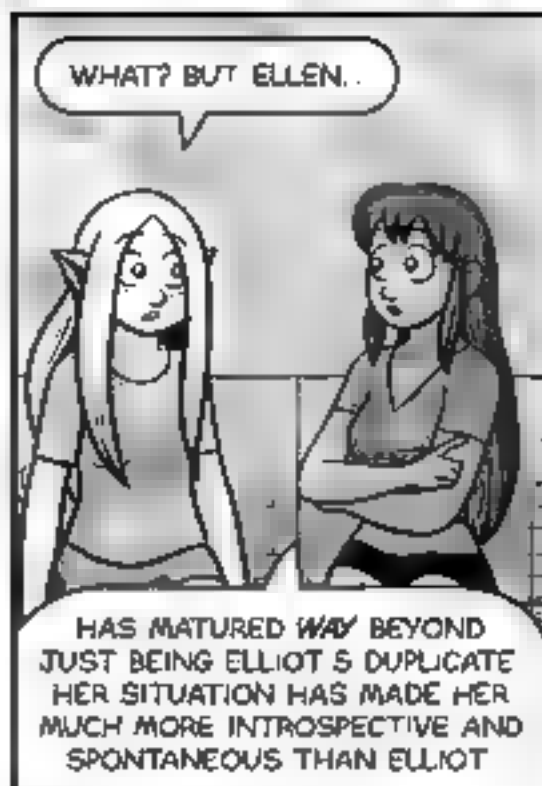
I JUST WANT HIM TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE FOR ONCE

A WEEK AGO

WHEN DID YOU LAST CALL HIM?

YIKES OKAY WELL. TO BE FAIR, HE DID JUST START A NEW JOB, AND YOU SAID THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN FOR YOU TWO. MAYBE YOU JUST NEED TO TELL HIM TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE!

WHAT?



**ELLEN & NANASE
MEDDLING TEENAGERS***

**Not affiliated with any meddling kids or their dog*



SARAH, THE
NON-FURRY CAT
FORM WATCH IS
READY

WHERE'D YOU
GET SO MANY
WATCHES,
ANYWAY?

THEY'RE SUPPOSE
TO BE TOY "GADGET
WATCHES" FOR
PRIZES AT ARCADES.
HE BOUGHT A
BUNCH IN BULK.



NOW YOU DON'T *NEED* TO CHANGE
BACK TO NORMAL BEFORE USING THIS AS
THE NEW TRANSFORMATION WILL CANCEL
OUT THE OLD ONE BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO
ANYWAY FOR THE SAKE OF TESTING.



I'VE BEEN MEANING
TO ASK WHY DIDN'T
YOUR HAIR GO BACK
TO BEING SHORT
WHEN YOU UNDO'D
THE KITTY FORM?

OH, THIS IS MY
ACTUAL HAIR LENGTH
THE SHORTER HAIR
WAS FROM ANOTHER
WATCH THAT TEDD
GAVE ME



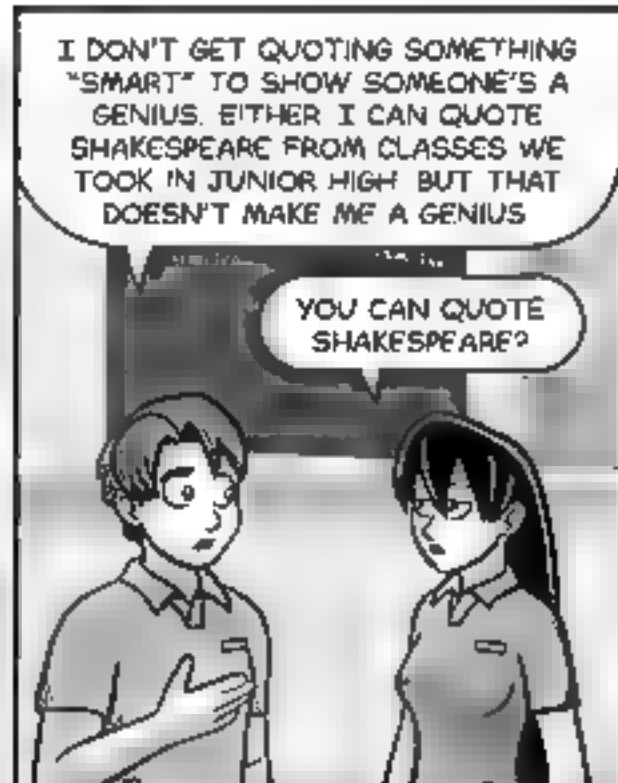
OH. SO YOU BROUGHT THE
WATCH FOR MAKING YOUR HAIR
SHORT AGAIN WITH YOU?

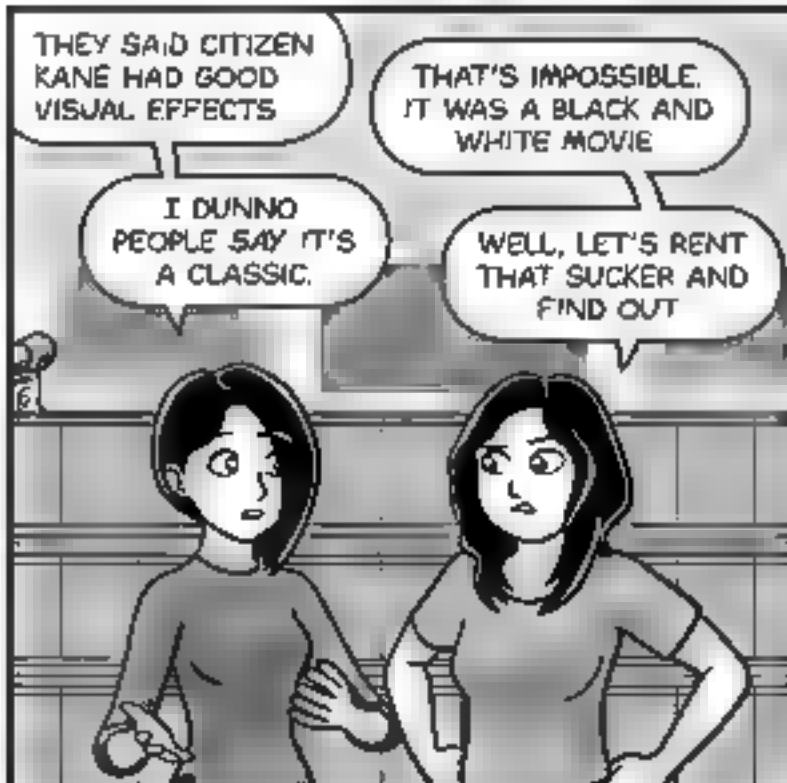


OH
TEDDY

I SAW THIS
COMING AND THE
MORPH IS ALREADY
LOADED INTO THE
TF GUN.

EH-
HEH.







HOW WOULD YOU TWO LIKE TO RENT NEW MOVIES FOR FREE?

I THOUGHT EMPLOYEES DIDN'T GET DISCOUNTS ON NEW RELEASES.



THEY DON'T BUT YOU TWO SISKEL AND EBERTING IT UP HAS INFLUENCED SOME RENTALS.

WHICH IS GREAT, BUT IT'S ALL BEEN OLDER MOVIES AND A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF STAR TREK MOVIES.



SO YOU WANT US TO RENT NEW RELEASES AND JUST TALK ABOUT THEM WHILE WE'RE WORKING?

I WASN'T AWARE THE EAVESDROPPER DEMOGRAPHIC WAS THAT



NO NO NO. I WANT YOU TO MAKE VIDEO REVIEWS FOR OUR WEBSITE!

YOU TWO CAN RENT ANY MOVIE YOU WANT FOR FREE ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU REVIEW THEM.



THAT... COULD BE FUN. BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT REVIEWING STUFF

NOR DO I I'M ALSO NOT FOND OF CAMERAS.



JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW!

ONLY ON CUE AND IN FRONT OF A CAMERA WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ANY NUMBER OF PEOPLE WILL SEE IT



EHHH

IT SOUNDS



I CAN TELL YOU'RE ON THE FENCE BUT AS ELLIOT SAID IT COULD BE FUN. SO I'D LIKE TO SUGGEST A TRIAL RUN.

SOMETIME SOON. YOU TWO CAN RENT ANY NEW RELEASE FOR FREE AND TRY DOING A REVIEW



IF YOU'RE HAPPY WITH IT, AND I'M HAPPY WITH IT WE CAN POST IT ON THE SITE AND YOU CAN MAKE MORE

IF NOT I WON'T POST ANY OF WHAT YOU'VE RECORDED AND THE RENTAL WILL STILL BE FREE.



THAT DOES SOUND LIKE A GOOD DEAL.

GRUNT



THEN IT'S A DEAL?

YEAH. SURE

GREAT!



I KNOW IT'S NOT PERSONAL. BUT YOU COULD AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL I'M NOT LOOKING TO USE THE HAND SANITIZER.

I'VE NEVER HAD TO CALL IN SICK

AS YOU WERE

IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS. WE'RE DOING IT *RIGHT* I'LL ASK JUSTIN FOR ADVICE THE NEXT CHANCE I GET AND YOU SHOULD CALL TEDD AND SARAH. THEY'VE BOTH MENTIONED WATCHING SUCH REVIEWS.



UGH. I HATE CALLING PEOPLE IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M SNEAKING UP ON SOMEONE AND YELLING AT THEM WHILE BLINDFOLDED.



AND YOUR REWARD IS EITHER A CONVERSATION THAT'S DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WITH SOMEONE YOU CAN'T SEE OR LEAVING AN AWKWARD MESSAGE



HEH. I'VE COMPLAINED ABOUT PHONES BEFORE HUH?

NO. I JUST KNOW HOW YOU FEEL I'M NOT SUGGESTING YOU PICK THEIR BRAINS OVER THE PHONE THE FOUR OF US SHOULD FIND TIME TO HANG OUT



OOH, THAT WOULD BE NICE IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN THEM.

IT'S... ELLIOT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR *BEST FRIEND* AND YOUR *GIRLFRIEND* WHEN DID YOU LAST TALK TO THEM?



I THINK IT WAS. ? HM. I'M NOT SURE

YOU'RE NOT SURE



I, UH. *REALLY* DON'T LIKE PHONES?

BUT I'M NOT ON BREAK

ELLIOT GO CALL YOUR GIRLFRIEND

I AM THE HIGHER LEVEL CLERK! GO!





CAN YOU
HAND ME MY
PHONE?



HERE

OHI
FINALLY



I GOT
IT RIGHT
TO YOU!

NOT
YOU

HEY
ELLIOT!
WHAT'S
UP?



HEY SARAH. UH... I
CAN'T TALK LONG I'M
ON SORT OF A NOT-
BREAK BREAK.

WHAT?

BUT I WAS WONDERING IF YOU AND
TEDD WOULD LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH
ME AND SUSAN TOMORROW? AND I
GUESS GRACE IF SHE'S AROUND.



WITH YOU AND SUSAN? UH... SURE
THAT SHOULD WORK HANG ON. I'M
ACTUALLY AT TEDD'S RIGHT NOW

YOU'LL
ASK TEDD
LATER?

I SA D I'M AT
TEDD'S RIGHT NOW

OH. YOU
SHOULD ASK
HIM ABOUT
TOMORROW



YEAH. GREAT IDEA HEY TEDD?
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF
ELLIOT AND SUSAN CAME
OVER TOMORROW?

MY SHEEP
WILL BE
AVENGED!

DID TEDD
JUST SAY HE'S
A SHEEP?



WHAT? NO. HE'S
STILL WORKING ON
BIPEDAL HOOVES.

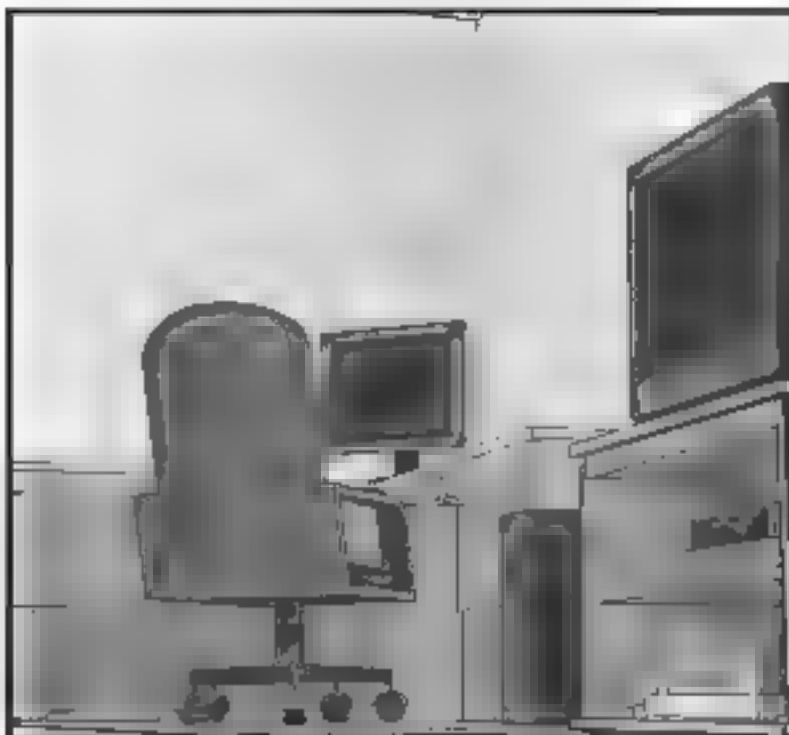
BICYCLE
HOOVES?



..YOU'RE JUST
MESSING WITH ME
NOW AREN'T YOU?

MAYBE







One answered door and several minutes later...

WAIT WAIT WAIT...
YOU'RE *DISAPPOINTED*
THAT TEDD CAN'T
MAKE YOU EVEN
SMALLER?

WELL, YEAH. EIGHTY PERCENT IS A
BIG CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE, BUT
CAN YOU *IMAGINE* SOMETHING LIKE
BEING SIX INCHES TALL AND
EXPLORING A CLUTTERED DESK?

I IMAGINE BEING *TERRIFIED*
AND WANTING TO HIT
SOMETHING HARD ENOUGH
TO LET THE WORLD KNOW I
COULD STILL KICK ITS ASS.

THAT WOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT. IN
THEORY, IF I COULD SHRINK SOMEONE
DOWN TO THAT SIZE, THEY'D EFFECTIVELY
HAVE SUPER STRENGTH AND DURABILITY.

HOW DOES
THAT WORK?

SCIENCE.

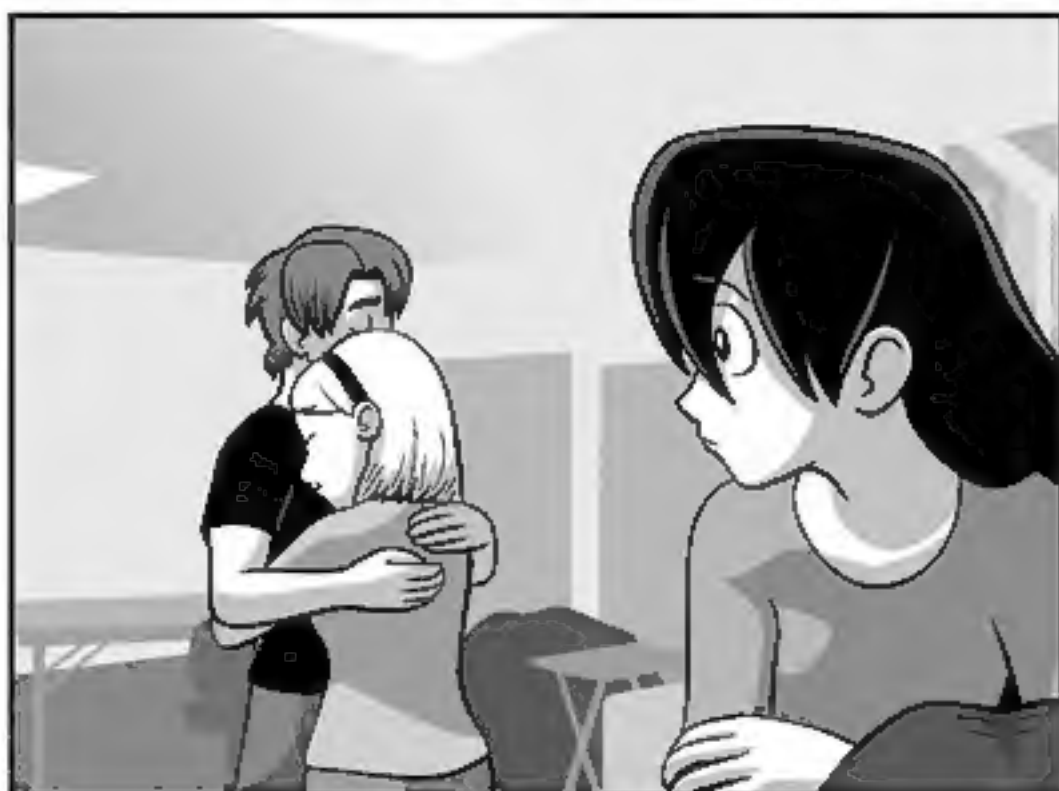
...THANK YOU
FOR CLEARING
THAT UP.

SO THIS
IS ALL ABOUT
PERSPECTIVE
TO YOU?

DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVES, NEW
EXPERIENCES. AND
IT'S COOL. I FEEL
WIZARDLY.

SO YOU BROUGHT
SARAH INTO THE
WIZARDING WORLD.
DOES THAT MAKE
YOU DUMBLEDORE
OR HAGRID?

I'M TOO
SHORT TO BE
EITHER, *SNAPE*.



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Story comics will resume December 31
Sketchbooks MWF next week (December 24, 26, 28)

YOU WANT TO CATCH DINNER AND A MOVIE THE NEXT TIME WE HAVE A NIGHT FREE? JUST YOU AND ME, I MEAN.

THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

OKAY! WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT?

YOUR CHOICE.

I DON'T KNOW... YOU LIKE MORE OF A VARIETY THAN I DO. LEFT TO ME, WE'D ALWAYS EAT AT THE SAME THREE PLACES.

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO CONSIDER THAT, BUT I ALWAYS PICK. I'D LIKE YOU TO CHOOSE MORE OFTEN.

OKAY... WELL, YOU KNOW MY FAVORITE PLACES. WOULD YOU PREFER--

JUST PICK SOMETHING.

OKAY.
OKAY, I CAN DO THAT.

YOU READY TO STREAM THOSE REVIEWS TO THE TV YET, TEDD?